

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

WINTER COMMENCEMENT 2024

Monday, January 8, 2024 | Prudential Center
25 Lafayette St, Newark, NJ 07102



ARRIVAL

IMPORTANT TRAVEL ADVISORY: We anticipate heavier-than-normal traffic in and around the Prudential Center. Plan to allow ample time for traffic, parking, and security screening at the venue.

- **Prudential Center Doors Open: 8:00 a.m.**
- **Graduates Must Arrive By: 8:30 a.m.**
- **Graduate Processional: 9:40 a.m.**
- **Ceremony Start Time: 10:00 a.m.**

ENTRANCE & SECURITY SCREENING

- Graduates **MUST** arrive at **M&M's Tower** by the designated arrival time. Don't be late! Graduate Processional begins 20 minutes before the ceremony start time.
- Guests should arrive at the designated arrival time above and can enter through the following entrances:
 - **Citizens Tower** (Mulberry Street and Edison Place)
 - **M&M's Tower** (Mulberry Street and Lafayette Street)
 - **Lafayette Street Entrance** (behind M&M's Tower)
- All attendees will be subject to a courteous screening via a walk-through metal detector to ensure safety and security for all.
- **IMPORTANT: The following items are prohibited at Prudential Center: alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, balloons, signs, banners, beach balls or balls of any kind, horns, noisemakers, laser pointers, flashlights, fireworks, selfie sticks, and outside food/beverages. For a comprehensive list of prohibited items, please view [Prudential Center Arena Policy](#). Prudential Center security will deny entrance to guests with any prohibited items**

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

- Parking will be available at lots and garages surrounding Prudential Center. Costs are determined by each parking facility.
- Consider taking public transportation through NJ Transit, carpooling, or rideshare service.
- For detailed directions and parking locations, visit the [Prudential Center Directions website](#).

BAG POLICY

- Limit any personal items you bring, as they must always remain on you. Graduates cannot leave belongings in the graduate lineup or seating areas. Graduates and guests may carry small handbags up to 10" x10" for personal items. Anything larger (e.g., backpacks) except childcare or medical bags are not allowed.
- **Bags that do not meet these expectations must be returned to the guest's vehicle or stored in a Prudential Center-supplied locker at the guest's expense.** Lockers are located outside M&M's Tower and Lafayette Street entrances. Strollers that fit underneath seating are permitted in the arena; all larger strollers must be checked at the entrance.

ACCESSIBLE ACCOMMODATIONS

- Guest Services staff are located at all entrances. Guest Services staff will assist guests needing accommodations, including wheelchair escorts, providing elevator locations, and ADA seating.
- Entrance ramps are located at M&M's Tower and Lafayette Street Entrance.
- For more information on accommodations available, please visit [Prudential Center Access Accommodations](#).
- For additional questions, email guestservices@prucenter.com.
- **Any graduate who needs accessible accommodations may contact Francesca Leite at leitef@montclair.edu.**



This **Know Before You Go** is a summary of the information needed for Commencement. Detailed information is listed on the Montclair State University [Commencement website](#). All graduates and guests must review all information available on the Commencement website before the ceremony on Monday, January 8, 2024.

GUEST TICKETS

- All guests **must** have an authorized ticket to enter the Prudential Center.
- Seating is general admission and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

LIVESTREAM

- All ceremonies will be livestreamed in English & Spanish for family and friends who cannot attend. Livestream links will be available on the [Commencement website](#).

CONCESSIONS

- Food and beverages are available at concession stands located in Prudential Center. We encourage graduates to eat before arriving, as the concession stands are not accessible from the student line-up area. Guests and graduates cannot bring outside food, beverages, coolers, bottles, or cans into the arena. All concession stands are cashless, and guests must pay for concessions with a debit card, credit card, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.

REGALIA

- Graduates must wear their regalia – cap, gown, tassel, and hood (hoods are only for doctoral and masters candidates), and consider wearing flat, comfortable shoes as they will walk throughout the arena for line up, the Graduate Processional and across the stage during the ceremony.

CEREMONY NAME READER CARDS

- Your name will be announced as you walk across the stage at Commencement by way of your Reader Card. This card has your diploma name, degree, major, and college/school.
- Please take care of this card and do not lose, damage, fold, rip, crumble, or write on it, as we cannot replace them.

GRADUATE GIFTS

- Graduate gifts, including flowers, graduate t-shirts, and other gift items, will be available for purchase on concourse levels.

PHOTOS

- Photos outside Prudential Center: if graduates and guests wish to take pictures outside Prudential Center, we strongly suggest arriving early to take photos before the ceremony.

CEREMONY TIMING & VENUE EXIT

- The ceremony will last approximately 2.5 hours.
- **The University expects all graduates to remain in the venue until all degrees have been conferred and the faculty and staff on the platform party have departed. We want to be respectful and ensure a meaningful experience for all graduates in attendance. Event staff will cue you to begin the student recessional.**
- Before the ceremony begins, plan a location where you and your guests will meet after the ceremony. After the ceremony, Prudential Center requests that all guests and graduates vacate the building.