

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## WINTER COMMENCEMENT 2026

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Prudential Center

25 Lafayette St, Newark, NJ 07102



### ARRIVAL

**IMPORTANT TRAVEL ADVISORY:** We anticipate heavier-than-normal traffic in and around Prudential Center. Plan to allow ample time for traffic, parking, and security screening at the venue. Bringing prohibited items will cause significant delays in entering Prudential Center.

- **Prudential Center Doors Open: 7:30 a.m.**
- **Graduates Must Arrive By: 8:15 a.m.**
- **Ceremony Start Time: 9:15 a.m.**

### ENTRANCE & SECURITY SCREENING

- Graduates **MUST** arrive at **Citizens Tower** by the designated arrival time. Don't be late!
- Guests should arrive when Prudential Center doors open 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, flags, 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.**
- Bringing prohibited items will cause significant delays in entering Prudential Center.

### 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 a 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](mailto:guestservices@prucenter.com).
- **Any graduate who needs accessible accommodations may contact Saniya Myers at [myerss@montclair.edu](mailto:myerss@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 necessary information available on the Commencement website before the ceremony on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

## GUEST TICKETS

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

## LIVESTREAM

- The Commencement ceremony 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

- Only Montclair State University-approved academic regalia is permitted. This includes cap, gown, hood (hoods are only for doctoral and masters candidates), Montclair State University zipper pull, and approved stoles, cords, and pins.
- Graduates should wear flat, comfortable shoes as they will need to walk throughout the arena for line up, Graduate Processional, and across the stage during the ceremony.
- Every graduate will receive a Montclair State University zipper pull in their regalia package. Attach the zipper pull to your regalia to show off your Montclair pride at Commencement!

## 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 and major.
- Please take care of this card and bring it with you to Commencement. 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

- Island Photography will be capturing the moment graduates walk across the stage. Don't forget to scan the QR code on the back of your reader card to register for your Commencement photo.
- 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 3 hours.
- **The University expects all graduates to remain in the arena until all degrees have been conferred and the platform party has departed. We ask that you be respectful to all graduates attending Commencement. Event staff will cue you to begin the recessional from the arena.**
- Before the ceremony begins, plan a spot where you and your guests will meet after the ceremony. After the ceremony, the Prudential Center requests that all guests and graduates vacate the building.