

From: Koss, Michelle
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:38 PM
To: Koss, Michelle
Cc: Saveena Dhall; McCown, Triana
Subject: Important Commencement Information

Dear YSN Class of 2021,

We look forward to our in-person commencement gathering on Friday, May 21, at 10:00 am. It will be a momentous occasion to celebrate your accomplishments. We have provided some of the frequently asked questions regarding safety guidelines, university requirements regarding testing and registration, and general information below. Further detailed instruction regarding the ceremony logistics will be communicated the week of May 10. The questions and answers will be posted on the YSN Commencement webpage and will be updated as more questions come in. If there is a question that has not been answered, please do not hesitate to email me.

Thank you,
Michelle

Michelle Koss
Senior Executive Assistant
Office of the Dean | Yale School of Nursing

Frequently Asked Questions

Please continue to check the [YSN Website](#). Questions will be updated as more come in.

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

Do I need to register to attend the ceremony?

Yes, all YSN students, regardless of location or vaccination status, will need to register in advance of the ceremony. **Please register [here](#) by Friday, May 7.**

I am fully vaccinated. Do I still need to take a COVID test to participate?

Yes. All students attending the ceremony are required to take a COVID test to participate.

Where do I get tested at Yale?

Testing is available at 109 Grove Street (Rosenfeld Hall), 150 York Street, or 60 Sachem Street. Please go to <http://covidtesting.yale.edu/> to schedule your test.

How do I show proof of vaccination?

If you were vaccinated through Yale, your proof of vaccination will be documented in our internal records. **Individuals who were fully vaccinated outside of Yale University must submit documentation via this [link](#).** Please allow up to 5 business days for processing.

I am traveling from out of state, and I am fully vaccinated (my last vaccination was before May 7). Is it possible to get tested at a location other than Yale?

Yes. Fully vaccinated students traveling from out of state will be able to provide their own negative PCR (not rapid) test result at least two days prior to the ceremony. **You must upload the test results [here](#) by May 18.**

I am traveling from out of state, but I am not vaccinated, or my last vaccination was less than two weeks before the ceremony date (on or after May 7). What do I need to do?

You will need to follow the original travel guidelines messaged earlier: test on arrival at Yale, quarantine for six days, and test again at Yale by May 18 allowing two days prior to the ceremony for the results.

I live in Connecticut, and I am fully vaccinated. Where and when do I get tested?

Vaccinated students living in CT should be tested at Yale through the [Yale Screening Program](#) within a week of the ceremony and allow two days prior to the ceremony for the results. Testing is available at 109 Grove Street (Rosenfeld Hall), 150 York Street, or 60 Sachem Street.

I live in Connecticut, but I am not vaccinated. Where and when do I get tested?

Students who are not vaccinated and are living in CT should be tested at Yale through the [Yale Screening Program](#) within a week of the ceremony and allow two days prior to the ceremony for the results. Testing is available at 109 Grove Street (Rosenfeld Hall), 150 York Street, or 60 Sachem Street.

Can my family, children, and friends attend the ceremony?

Due to pandemic-related restrictions, we regret that we cannot welcome any guests to campus, even those who have been vaccinated. All in-person ceremonies will be limited to graduating students only.

Do I have to wear a mask?

All attendees must wear masks and observe social distancing. All chairs will be spaced 6 feet apart.

Will there be food or drink at the ceremony?

No food or beverages will be allowed, so plan accordingly. Receptions should not be organized before or after the ceremony.

I am a DNP student. Will there be a hooding ceremony?

The hooding ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 20, at 4pm at YSN. Please be sure to follow the above guidelines. Michelle Koss will be in touch with additional information regarding logistics of the ceremony.

Do I need to do the Daily Health Check to attend the ceremony?

All graduates must complete the [Daily Health Check](#) before coming to campus. You cannot attend the ceremony if you are feeling ill, and you cannot attend if you are in contact quarantine or isolation or mandated travel quarantine.

Will we be able to gather in the Hub prior to the ceremony?

No. After you pass the check in, you will be instructed to go directly to your seat.

I tested positive for COVID-19 while in New Haven. What should I do?

If you tested positive for COVID-19 while in New Haven to attend your ceremony, you must isolate for 10 days. Anyone who is in quarantine or isolation at the time of the ceremony SHOULD NOT ATTEND.

Can I meet with my classmates, family, and friends for a small celebration on West Campus after the ceremony?

There is one YSN-sponsored commencement for our graduates on Friday, May 21, at 10:00 a.m. Students, faculty, and staff are not permitted to arrange separate commencement-related gatherings on West Campus. Personal celebrations with family should follow current Yale safety guidelines. We understand the excitement, but it is essential that we continue to adhere to university safety protocols to maintain the safety of YSN, Yale, and our local communities.

What happens if public health conditions change?

If public health conditions change and we cannot gather in person, the ceremony will be shared virtually via live-stream. The ceremony will be both live-streamed and recorded. We will provide the link closer to the date. You can find the link on the YSN website as well as the [Yale 2021 website](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT**What time should I arrive at YSN?**

Please arrive between 9:00 - 9:30 am. Please come directly from your home or hotel to YSN. Guests should not accompany students to West Campus.

What should I do if I have disability-related needs?

Please contact Michelle Koss (michelle.koss@yale.edu) by **May 7** if you have disability-related needs so we can ensure appropriate accommodations are available.

I am being dropped off at YSN for the ceremony. Can the person wait in their car in the YSN parking lot?

Unfortunately, family and friends cannot park at West Campus during the ceremony. Please enter the Marsh Hill Road entrance to West Campus. Enter the first lot on the left after the security gate.

If I am driving myself, where do I park?

Please enter the Marsh Hill Road entrance to West Campus. Enter the first lot on the left after the security gate. You will be directed by staff to the designated parking area.

Where should I get picked up after the ceremony?

Please have your ride enter the Marsh Hill Road entrance to West Campus no earlier than 11:00 am. They may park in the first lot on the left after the security gate. There will be signage and staff to direct cars. Reminder: cars cannot park there during the ceremony.

I am taking an Uber to the ceremony. Where can I be dropped off?

You may be dropped off at the check in location which will be identified by signage.

Who is the YSN Commencement Speaker?

Congresswoman Lauren Underwood will deliver the 2021 commencement address. Congresswoman Underwood will not be attending the ceremony in-person. Rather, remarks from the Congresswoman will be virtually delivered.

Will the ceremony be live-streamed? Will the ceremony be recorded?

Yes, the ceremony will be both live-streamed and recorded. We will provide the link closer to the date. You can find the link on the YSN website as well as the [Yale 2021 website](#).

Will I be able to take photos with my classmates before or after the ceremony?

You can take photos with your classmates, but you must follow the health and safety guidelines: please observe social distancing and wear a mask.

Will there be a procession?

No. In the weeks prior to commencement, the Office of Student Life and Belonging will follow up with additional logistical guidance, including seating arrangements.

What happens if it rains?

The ceremony will be held regardless of rain. However, if the ceremony cannot continue because of lightning or other dangerous weather, it will be live-streamed and recorded. We will provide the livestream link closer to the date. You can find the link on the YSN website as well as the [Yale 2021 website](#). We will be monitoring weather conditions preceding the event and will update this page and post any changes to our plans via YSN social media.

Can we bring silly string, confetti, and noise makers?

Silly string, confetti, and noise makers are permitted. However, no bubbles, whistles or anything requiring you to remove your mask will be permitted.

GENERAL GRADUATION INFORMATION

When will I receive my diploma?

The 2021 conferral date for all earned degrees is June 4, 2021. Diplomas will be mailed or distributed to graduates after that date. Go to the Commencement tab in [Student Information Systems](#) (SIS) and select the Diploma Information tile – there, you will be able to make updates to your diploma email (personal email) and diploma mailing address and diploma name. Please note that everyone should confirm their diploma email, name, and address. This year, the diploma package will also include a diploma, diploma translation, and certificate of graduation. **Requests for name change must be submitted before May 1, 2021.**

All students should enter a diploma address that will be valid for **at least 8 weeks after June 4th**. Failure to enter a **diploma address by June 2nd** will result in your diploma not being mailed in the initial round of graduation mailers and will need to be requested thru the following website and associated form:

<https://registrar.yale.edu/students/diplomas>

I will not be eligible to graduate until after May. Will I still be able to attend the ceremony?

Yes. Class of 2021 students fulfilling the graduation requirements after May will be allowed to attend the ceremony.

What if I did not order regalia in time?

We have been told by university colleagues who are working with the vendor that they will have additional caps and gowns on site for students who did not pre-order them to pick-up and pay at the location (details will be shared once logistics have been determined); this will be during Commencement Week.

Is there a University-wide ceremony as in years past?

No. Please see next question for more information regarding the University-wide ceremony.

Where can I find more information about President Salovey's address and the official conferral of degrees and honorary degrees?

President Salovey's address to students and official conferral of student and honorary degrees will be shared virtually on Monday, May 24, beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the [Yale 2021 website](#).