

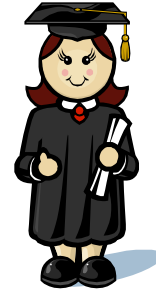
NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Registrar's Office

Commencement Information



**Saturday, December 12, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Johnson Fine Arts Center
Northern State University**



Schedule of Events

Commencement Information

Students should check in at tables located near the JFAC Black Box Theatre by 9:15 a.m. (Final instructions will be given at 9:30 a.m.). Students should watch/check their NSU email the week prior to the ceremony for updated info from the Commencement Coordinator.

Commencement Exercises

Tickets are not required for commencement. Seating is open to the public.

Pre-Commencement Activities/Information

- **All Students** must purchase caps, gowns, tassels, and Master's Hoods on the NSU Wolf Shoppe's website at <https://www.buildagrad.com/northernstateuniversity>. Graduation apparel can be purchased online beginning August 17th through November 1st, with orders arriving on December 4th.
- **Commencement Announcements (invitations)** may be purchased on the NSU Wolf Shoppe's website <https://cbgrad.balfour.com/>.
- **Diploma Frames** may be purchased on the NSU Wolf Shoppe's website <https://northernstate.universityframes.com/> or at the NSU Wolf Shoppe.
- **Students who participate in the commencement exercise MUST wear a cap and gown.** *Note that Associate gowns are silver and Bachelor gowns are black.* Students graduating with honors do not need to purchase special items to wear.
- Watch your Wolves email and please respond to the RSVP email that you will receive from the NSU Commencement Coordinator in November. Letting us know of your intent to attend or not attend the ceremony ensures we have enough seats reserved for graduates.

General Commencement Information

- **You MUST** have completed or made arrangements to complete your **Exit Exam** since it is a graduation requirement. Assessment Day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2026. If you have any questions about what you need to do, contact the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment by emailing nsuassessment@northern.edu, or call 626-2433. You will be receiving information via NSU email within the first month of the fall semester regarding the date & time of your exam. Additional information about Exit Exams can be found in the Knowledge Base, here: <https://td.northern.edu/TDClient/30/Portal/KB/Article/179/Testing-Senior-Exit-Exams>. **The Exit Exam is NOT available in the summer.**
- **Education Majors: Official results of the required Praxis Content and Pedagogy (PLT) tests must be received by the Assessment Coordinator for the School of Education before graduation can be finalized.**
- **If you are planning to teach**, you must secure a teaching certificate from the state in which you plan to teach. **The certification process in other states may be expedited if you have obtained initial certification in SD, therefore IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU APPLY FOR A SOUTH DAKOTA TEACHING CERTIFICATE.** Application forms are available from the state's State Department of Education. Most states have the application available online. South Dakota's website to apply online is <https://doe.sd.gov/certification/>. Once you apply, our certifying officials are notified to review your application for recommendation. You must also request an official transcript be sent to the state DOE office from the Registrar's Office (see below) and pay the required application fee. Our office will transmit the application file to the proper state department or return it to you as directed by that state.
- **You will need transcripts** of your academic record. Transcripts are of two types – *official*, which are \$10.00 per copy, or *unofficial*, which are issued only to students, and mailed at no charge. **You will get one free official transcript with your diploma.** We recommend you keep this transcript for your files. You can make copies of your transcript, as often as you wish, for preliminary applications, but once employed, you will need to request an official copy be sent directly to that employer. Most recipients will not consider a transcript official unless it is sent directly to them from the issuing school via mail or electronic transcript service. Additional transcripts can be released only upon your written request and payment of the required fee. Written requests may be made in person in our office in DH 103, by completing a transcript request form, or by ordering through our online service. Requests will not be accepted by email for security reasons. You will need to provide:
 - Full name**
 - ID number**
 - Appropriate fees**
 - Name & address of recipient**
 - Your signature**Request forms and info on ordering online can be found on our transcript & diploma page at this link: <https://northern.edu/academics/records-and-registration/transcripts-and-diplomas>. **The Registrar's Office will NOT** issue transcripts if you call, if another person makes the request, or if you have a **HOLD** on your record.
- **You are encouraged to check with the Finance and Administration Office to be sure that all financial obligations have been met.**
- If you have any questions, please phone the Registrar's Office at 605-626-2012, e-mail stephanie.hawkinson@northern.edu, write to the Registrar's Office at 1200 S Jay St., Aberdeen SD, or fax to 605-626-2587.