

Countdown to Commencement

Everything you need to know about graduation

Deadlines, Traditions, and More!

SHU Commencement 2026 site:

<https://www.sienaheights.edu/commencement-2026-event-details/>



SIENA HEIGHTS
UNIVERSITY





Important Dates

- **Tuesday, April 14, 2026** – **Deadline** to Apply for Graduation and Register for May Commencement (these are 2 separate steps!)
- **Thursday, April 30, 2026** – Lavender Ceremony (5:30 p.m.)
- **Friday, May 1, 2026**
 - Honors Convocation (2 p.m.)
 - Torch Night & Commissioning Ceremony (6 p.m.)
- **Saturday, May 9, 2026**
 - Baccalaureate Mass (9 a.m.)
 - Kente Ceremony (10:30 a.m.)
 - Graduation Reception – Meet and Greet with Faculty & Advisors (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)
 - All University Commencement (2 p.m.)

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Applying to Graduate vs Commencement

Application for Graduation

- **Graduation** - The receiving or conferring of an academic degree or diploma
- Siena Heights has **3 Graduations** (August, December, and May)
- Every student must fill out the **graduation application on MySiena** to receive their diploma and be granted their degree

Commencement

- **Commencement** - A symbolic ceremony where graduates are recognized for their accomplishments
- Siena Heights has **1 Commencement Ceremony** (May)
- To notify Siena Heights that you will be participating in Commencement, you must complete the **registration form**

How and when should I apply for graduation?

Candidates for a degree must submit a formal Graduation Application before a degree can be awarded

Where to find the Graduation Application

- [MySiena > Academic Information > Application for Graduation](#)

Deadline to Apply for Graduation – April 14th

University Commencement Ceremony

- **Saturday, May 9, 2026 @ 2 p.m.** – Commencement for all graduating students at SHU.
 - Commencement will also be livestreamed
- **Address:** 1247 E. Siena Heights Dr. Adrian, MI 49221
- Outdoor ceremony held at the Adrian Campus of Siena Heights University.



Participation in Commencement, Registration, and Guests

- By completing the [Registration Form](#), you are telling Siena Heights University that you will be participating/walking on Commencement Day, May 9th
- Each student walking in commencement is encouraged to invite their guests
- Please enter the total number of guests attending commencement so that we are can get a count.
- **No tickets will be distributed to students or guests.**





What is “Regalia” and where do I order it?

- Regalia is what a graduate wears during the commencement ceremony. Regalia package includes graduation gown, graduation cap, tassel, and hood.
- Regalia can be ordered online at: <https://www.sienaheights.edu/regalia/>
- **Online ordering link will be active until April 14th. However, we recommend ordering before April 7th for shipping purposes**
- When ordering online the items will be sent directly to the address you provide

Honors Cords are available to students with a 3.5 or higher GPA and can be picked up at the Bookstore after April 14th or at check-in the day of Commencement (available for those traveling/not on campus)

Honors Cords are worn over the graduation robe for the Commencement Ceremony

Student-Athlete Stoles are given to students who have participated in athletics and will be administered by the Athletic Department



Regalia Packages and Cost

Each package includes cap (one size fits all), gown, hood, and tassel:

- Associate/Bachelor Package (includes cap, gown, tassel, and hood): \$158.90
- Specialist/Master's Package (includes cap, gown, tassel, and hood): \$172.90

Individual items for purchase:

- Bachelor Hood (only): \$44.98
- Master Hood (only): \$44.98
- Cap (only): \$10.98
- Tassel (only): \$10.98



The “Hood” will be provided in the Regalia package. You do not need to put this on, because the hooding will be part of the commencement ceremony.

Hood colors are based off your degree:

- Bachelor of Applied Science - gold (bright yellow)
- Bachelor of Arts - white
- Bachelor of Business Administration - drab (light brown)
- Bachelor of Fine Arts - brown (dark brown)
- Bachelor of Science - gold (bright yellow)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing - apricot
- Bachelor of Social Work - citron (dark gold)
- Master’s & Associate - black, navy, & gold





Lavender Ceremony

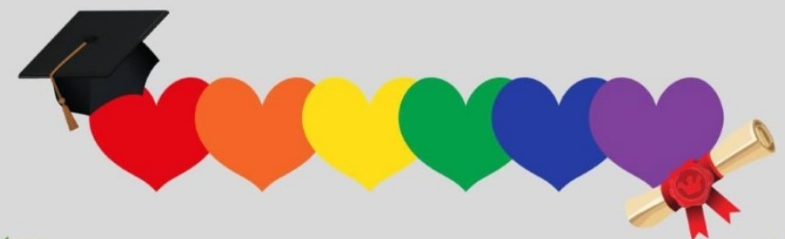
When: Thursday, April 30th at 5:30pm

Where: Location to be determined

A Lavender Ceremony is an annual event that honors the achievement, contributions, and resilience of LGBTQ+ students and their allies. It provides a supportive community space to celebrate their academic success and unique experiences just prior to the traditional university-wide commencement.

RSVP: [Registration Form](#)

Questions? Contact Wilson at jwilson8@sienaheights.edu





Honors Convocation

Honors Convocation is an event to recognize and celebrate the academic and service achievements of students. All are welcome to attend, including supporters

- **WHEN:** Friday, May 1st at 2 p.m.
- **WHERE:** St. Dominic Chapel and online via Livestream



Torch Night & Commissioning Ceremony?

When: Friday, May 1st at 6:00 pm
in St. Dominic Chapel

To Participate: complete the
[Registration Form](#)

Questions: Contact Sara Chrenko,
(schrenko@sienaheights.edu)
at 517-264-7605



What is Torch Night & Commissioning Ceremony?

- One of Siena Heights' oldest legacy traditions
- The candle/rose ceremony takes place between graduating students and non-graduating students
- Graduating seniors will ask another non-graduating student to be their "Torch" in the ceremony
- Each graduating student can select one or two "Torches" in the ceremony
- Serves as a symbolic act of students carrying on the spirit of the graduating seniors
- Graduates wear their caps and gowns for this ceremony

*NEW Commissioning Ceremony

- All students, faculty, staff, and alumni can participate in the commissioning ceremony which serves as a reminder to carry on the mission and spirit of Siena Heights University into the next chapter of life.



Baccalaureate Mass

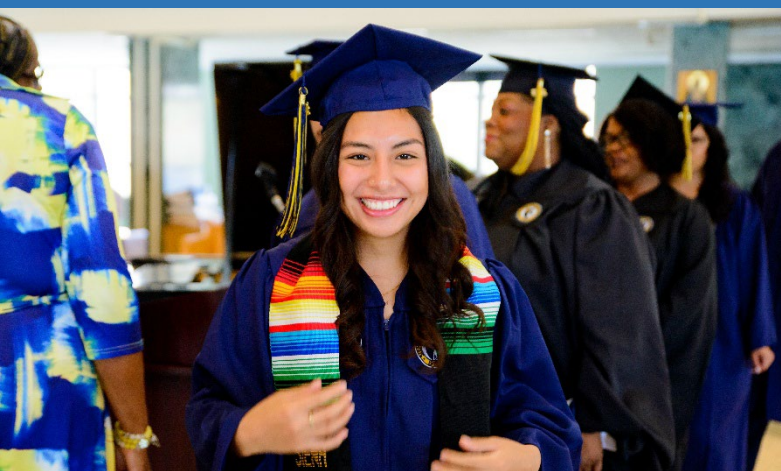
Saturday, May 9th from 9:00am – 10:00am
St. Dominic Chapel

In the Catholic Dominican tradition, Siena Heights invites all graduating seniors and their families to begin Commencement day by thanking God with a Baccalaureate Mass. The meaning of the word Baccalaureate is “sermon to the graduates.”

All graduates who attend receive a cross to wear from our University President Cheri Betz.

The cross is a reminder that the God who loves us all is with them as the students go onto the next step of their life journey, wherever it may lead.

Please [register](#) yourself, family and guests to attend the service. There is no limit to the people to invite. To register complete your interest on the [Registration Form](#). We are hoping to get an approximate count, but all are welcome, even those who did not register.



Kente Ceremony

Saturday, May 9th from 10:30am - 11:30am
St. Dominic Chapel

- The Kente Ceremony has become a cherished part of commencement day for Siena's African American, Hispanic and Latino graduates.
- During the ceremony SHU alumni, faculty, and staff place a Stole on the shoulders of the graduates to be worn over the graduation robe
 - *Kente Stole* for African American Graduates
 - *Serape Stole* for Hispanic and Latino Graduates
- **To participate:** Complete the [Registration Form](#) or contact Chitranjan "Tee" Greer-Travis, cgreertr@sienaheights.edu or 517-264-7613

Diploma & Transcripts

Diplomas

- You **do not** get a diploma on commencement day.
- If you graduated in August 2025 or December 2025 you should have already received your diploma. Contact Corrie Hoeft, choeft@sienaheights.edu if you have not received it.
- If graduating in May 2026 you will receive your diploma end of June.
- It will be mailed to the address you listed when you completed the application for graduation. You will receive an email from Parchment asking you to confirm your address. If you want to make changes to your address please make the correction by email.
- You **will not** be able to get another diploma once the university is closed.

Transcripts

- Order through Parchment through May 31 for FREE! If you are currently taking classes you can order them and put the word "HOLD" on the form so we do not send until grades are posted.
- June 2026 and beyond transcripts will be ordered from Diploma Center (who will hold our alumni records) and there will be a fee.



Career Services

Do you need assistance with next steps after SHU!
Contact Tim Bronson, tbronson@sienaheights.edu

- Resume & Cover Letter Review
- Graduate & Professional School Assistance
- Job Search Tips
- Connect to discuss goals for your next professional step
- Transfer pathways for continuing at another college/university



Connect at <https://www.sienaheights.edu/academics/resources/career-services/>

Congratulations graduates!

All links mentioned in this presentation are available on the [Commencement Information and Registration site](#).

Keep an eye on the SHU Announcements for any updates/reminders. The Commencement Information and Registration site will also have regular updates.

Still have unanswered questions about commencement? Please reach out to us 😊

- Commencement Registration Form and other Year End Events: Sara Chrenko (Dean of Students), schrenko@sienaheights.edu
- Applying for Graduation, Transcripts, Diplomas: Corrie Hoeft (Registrar), choeft@sienaheights.edu

