CEREMONY - Commencement is a traditional ceremony recognizing the culmination of an academic career with the awarding of a degree. In keeping with the occasion, all candidates wear the academic cap, gown, and hood signifying their achievement. In recognition of their graduating students, faculty members will participate in their academic regalia. As a formal University ceremony, it is expected that all participants will arrive on time and will conduct themselves in a professional manner.

REGALIA - Candidates if you have not made arrangements for your regalia, please do so as soon as possible. Graduation regalia is available at the UND Bookstore during regular business hours. If you are borrowing your regalia, you should purchase the new tassel, and you need to bring the hood you are borrowing with your name attached to it to Kelly Jordet or Rob Carolin in the Dean’s Office as soon as possible. There is a specific set of regalia required to participate in the UND commencement ceremony. Deviations from the traditional regalia will not be allowed. Prior to graduation day, please take the gown out of the packaging and hang it or steam it to get the creases out.

ASSEMBLAGE - It is recommended that the candidates come to the basement of the Chester Fritz Auditorium to the Rehearsal Room by 9:15 a.m. to check in, pick up your program and name card, and put on your regalia. No later than 9:30 a.m., candidates, faculty, and platform officials will assemble in the Rehearsal Room. Marshals will assist each group in the assembly area. Please be on time. Note: There is no security in the assembly room. UND is not responsible for purses, coats, and other personal items left in the assembly area. Please make other arrangements for these items.

At 9:30 Candidates will then form a column, in single file, and in alphabetical order, as listed in the program. You must have your name card with you when you are lining up. The card will be carried by each candidate during the processional and handed to the announcer as they cross the stage. This card is for the announcer to know how to pronounce your name. Please use the line on the card to put a phonetic spelling if necessary. Hoods will be arranged in name order on the stage consistent with the order in the program. Faculty will form a single file column. Platform officials will form a single file column.

THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCEDURAL - The processional will leave the assembly area at 9:50 a.m. Promptly at 10:00 a.m., the procession will enter the main house of the Chester Fritz Auditorium with a marshal leading each group. Individuals should leave a space of about six feet between candidates when moving into the auditorium. The order of the march will be (1) the candidates; (2) faculty; and (3) the platform officials.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS – Dean Rand will introduce the commencement speaker, Senator John Hoeven.

PLATFORM PROCEDURE - Dean Rand will present the candidates to President Kelley for conferring of degrees. President Kelley will confer the degrees. Dean Rand will then invite the candidates to come forward. Led by a marshal, candidates will move to the stage in single file. Ascend the steps and hand your name card to the proctor (Laureen Johnson) when it is your turn. Stop at the announcer table until your name is called. When your name is announced, walk on to the stage to the area of Professors Alleva and Johnson to be hooded. Face the audience with your back to the hooders and the professors will put the hood around your neck. After being hooded, proceed across the stage to President Kelley to receive your green diploma cover. Then continue across the stage, down the steps, and out the side door to have a quick photo taken. The marshal will help you with getting out to the photographer. After the photo, you then return to your original seat.
Platform Procedure Continued - Remain standing until all graduates in your row have returned to their places, then be seated. Students also receiving the MBA hood will first be hooded with the law hood by our faculty members, then will proceed across the stage and will be handed the masters hood by a College of Business representative. A picture will be taken of each graduate as they receive their diploma cover and after you exit the stage. Several days after the ceremony, each candidate will be contacted by mail for an opportunity to purchase the pictures. The photo service is provided by Tweten’s Photography, Grafton, ND, 1-800-525-0625.

RECESSSIONAL - Following the Dean’s concluding remarks, the marshals will lead the groups back to the assembly area starting with the platform group, followed by the faculty, and then followed by the graduates. It is important that the recessional keep moving. Don’t block the movement of those behind you.

BRUNCH – Immediately following the commencement ceremony, a complimentary brunch will be held at the UND Memorial Union Ballroom. The brunch will be available until 1:30 p.m. for graduates, families, faculty, staff and all other guests. It is served buffet style, so you can come and go as you please. A very short program will be held at the brunch featuring an honor song played in honor of all law school graduates. Graduates are invited to participate in a receiving line during the honor song to be recognized and celebrated for your outstanding accomplishment.

PARKING – For the Ceremony - You and your guests are welcome to park in the large lot immediately south of the Chester Fritz Auditorium. They have told us they will not be ticketing the lot with the exception of the handicapped and service vehicle spots. There will be no charge to park. For the Brunch - Please encourage your guests who are driving to the Memorial Union to park in the parking ramp for the brunch. They can pull a ticket when they go in the ramp. Have them bring the ticket to the brunch to have it validated at the station that will be set up outside the ballroom. If it is validated, they won’t have to pay to get out of the lot. If the weather is appropriate, you are welcome to walk to the Union as well. If you have members in your party that have a difficult time getting around, you can drop them off in front of the union prior to parking your vehicle.

GRADUATION PROGRAMS – We print about 800 color programs for the commencement ceremony. Each graduate will receive a copy prior to the ceremony, and copies will be available from the ushers for those attending the ceremony. Any remaining copies will be brought to the brunch for you to take should you want to have a few extras.

VIDEO PRODUCTION – The law school hires the UND Television Production Center to broadcast and record the graduation ceremony. The ceremony will be broadcast on in house televisions that will be located in the lobby. If you have small children that my not want to sit that long, they can be in the lobby and continue to follow the ceremony to make sure they do not miss you going across the stage. We also have the Center produce a video copy that will be made available to each graduate free of charge.

WHAT DO I WEAR TO GRADUATION? - Graduation is a ceremony recognizing the completion of a professional degree, so it is recommended you dress professionally. Some things you may want to avoid wearing are flip flop shoes (because they can be loud when going across the stage), jeans, white shoes, shorts and sandals. The gowns do not go all the way to the ground, so part of your legs and shoes will be showing.

HOW LONG DOES GRADUATION LAST - The commencement program typically lasts for about 90 minutes.

HOW DO I GET MY REAL DIPLOMA - As you go across the stage at graduation you will receive a green diploma cover. This is not your actual diploma. Diplomas are mailed out in June/July by certified mail and require a signature when received. Please remember to keep your address up to date on Campus Connection. The address listed on Campus Connection is what UND uses to mail out your diploma.