



Spring 2026 Commencement Communiqué

Honouring the Journey that Shaped Us, Embracing the Future that Calls Us

Our Graduands are almost at the finish line of their academic journeys, and we are tremendously proud of their sacrifices, resilience, and achievements. We are gearing up for the Spring 2026 Commencement season under the theme, Honouring the Journey that Shaped Us, Embracing the Future that Calls Us.

This Spring 2026 Commencement Communiqué has information that guides preparations for the upcoming commencement events and activities that will transition our students from being seniors to the newest members of the University of The Bahamas alumni community. Be sure to read all the way to the end for key dates, protocols and other details to help you get ready for these time-honoured rites of passage.

New Providence



The Board of Trustees and the President cordially invite you to the

SPRING 2026
Baccalaureate Service

SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2026 | 6:00 P.M.
Performing Arts Centre, Keva M. Bethel Building
University of The Bahamas, Oakes Field Campus
Nassau, The Bahamas

Honouring the Journey that Shaped Us
Embracing the Future that Calls Us



The Board of Trustees and the President cordially invite you to the

SPRING 2026
Teachers Commissioning

TUESDAY 26TH MAY 2026 | 10:00 A.M.
Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road
Nassau, The Bahamas

Honouring the Journey that Shaped Us
Embracing the Future that Calls Us



The Board of Trustees and the President cordially invite you to the

SPRING 2026
Nursing and Allied Health Professions Pinning Ceremony

WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY 2026 | 10:00 A.M.
Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road
Nassau, The Bahamas

Honouring the Journey that Shaped Us
Embracing the Future that Calls Us



The Board of Trustees and the President cordially invite you to the

SPRING 2026
Awards Reception

TUESDAY 26TH MAY 2026 | 6:00 P.M.
Harry C. Moore Library, Auditorium
University of The Bahamas, Oakes Field Campus
Nassau, The Bahamas

Honouring the Journey that Shaped Us
Embracing the Future that Calls Us





UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS

The Board of Trustees and the President cordially invite you to the

SPRING 2026
Commencement Ceremony

THURSDAY 28TH MAY 2026 | 7:00 P.M.
Nassau Cruise Port
Downtown Nassau, The Bahamas

Honouring the Journey that Shaped Us
Embracing the Future that Calls Us



Grand Bahama



UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS NORTH

The Board of Trustees and the President cordially invite you to the

SPRING 2026
Baccalaureate Service

TUESDAY, 2ND JUNE 2026 | 7:00 P.M.
Freeport Bible Church, Norma Headley Drive
Freeport, Grand Bahama

Honouring the Journey that Shaped Us
Embracing the Future that Calls Us




UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS NORTH

The Board of Trustees and the President cordially invite you to the

SPRING 2026
Teachers Commissioning and Awards Ceremony

WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE 2026 | 10:00 A.M.
Freeport Bible Church
Norma Headley Drive, Freeport, Grand Bahama

Honouring the Journey that Shaped Us
Embracing the Future that Calls Us





Important Dates and Deadlines

Now | Availability of Academic Regalia

2nd May | Final Graduation Photo Session for New Providence | Chapter One Bookstore | 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

4th May | Spring 2026 Final Grade Submission

5th May | Transcripts Available for Distribution after noon

21st May | Rehearsal for New Providence Commencement

1st June | Rehearsal for Grand Bahama Commencement

TBD | Distribution of Diplomas



Eligibility for Inclusion in Listing of Graduates and Candidates for Graduation

To be included in the listing of graduates and candidates for graduation for Spring 2026 Commencement, students ought to have submitted a Graduation Evaluation Application by **26th January 2026**. A student is deemed eligible for inclusion in the listing of candidates for graduation if, at the point of the submission of the Graduation Evaluation Application, all required courses were due to be completed by the end of the **Spring 2026 Semester**.

Candidates for graduation for Summer 2026 may participate in the Spring 2026 Commencement Ceremony with up to six (6) credits outstanding. However, their names will be published in the Spring 2027 Commencement booklet.

Inclement Weather Arrangements



In the event of inclement weather, additional announcements will be issued outlining any necessary changes or alternative arrangements.

For the latest information on Commencement events and activities, please continue to visit the UB website at www.ub.edu.bs. Updates for graduands will also be shared via the UB Class of 2026 WhatsApp group, University email, and official social media platforms. Graduands who want to be added to the WhatsApp group should send an email to: campuslife@ub.edu.bs.



Commencement Schedule Spring 2026

New Providence



- Thursday, 21st May 2026 – Commencement Rehearsal | 6:00 pm | **Venue TBC**
- Sunday, 24th May 2026 – Baccalaureate Service | 6:00 pm | Performing Arts Centre, Keva M. Bethel Building, UB Oakes Field Campus
- Tuesday, 26th May 2026 – Teachers Commissioning Ceremony | 10:00 am | Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road
- Tuesday, 26th May 2026 – Awards Ceremony | 6:00 pm | Harry C. Moore Library, Auditorium
- Wednesday, 27th May 2026 – Nursing and Allied Health Professions Pinning Ceremony | 10:00 am | Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road
- Thursday, 28th May 2026 – Spring 2026 Commencement Ceremony | 7:00 pm | Amphitheatre, Nassau Cruise Port

Grand Bahama: University of The Bahamas North

- Monday, 1st June 2026 – Commencement Rehearsal | 5:00 p.m. | Courtyard, University of The Bahamas North
- Tuesday, 2nd June 2026 – Baccalaureate Service | 7:00 p.m. | Freeport Bible Church, Norma Headley Drive
- Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 – Teachers Commissioning & Awards Ceremony | 10:00 a.m. | Freeport Bible Church, Norma Headley Drive
- Thursday, 4th June 2026 – Commencement | 10:00 a.m. | University of The Bahamas North, Courtyard



Collection of Academic Regalia

The appropriate academic dress is the black gown, black cap, hood and tassel. It is important that candidates secure the tassel and hood specific to their academic unit.

Please note the following price list for Graduation Regalia:

\$150.00 – Gown, Hood, Cap & Tassel

\$48.15 – Gown

\$75.65 – Hood (Bachelor's)

\$26.40 – Tassel Only

\$16.50 – Cap

Items may be collected from:

- **Chapter One Bookstore, University Drive | 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday | Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Telephone contact: 397-2649/2650)**

- **University of The Bahamas North, Business Office, McKenzie Street, Downtown, Freeport | 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday (Telephone contact: 359-5047)**

Note: Candidates must present either a receipt or an ID card and are encouraged to call in advance to confirm that their packages are available for collection.



Honours Cords

The gold cord is worn by candidates graduating with distinction. The cumulative grade point average required for the award of distinction is 3.51 – 4.00, effective Fall 1998.

Honours cords will be available for collection at the Commencement Rehearsal scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 6:00p.m. at a venue to be announced. **Honours cords may also be collected following the rehearsal from Academic Systems, Office of the Provost & Vice President, Academic Affairs.**

For UB North candidates, honours cords will be presented at the Teachers Commissioning and Awards Ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 10:00 a.m., Freeport Bible Church, Norma Headley Drive.



Commencement Ceremony Rehearsals

Candidates for graduation should attend all rehearsals in order to receive pertinent information relevant to the Commencement ceremony. Rehearsals are scheduled as follows:

New Providence – Thursday, 21st May 2026 | 6:00 p.m. | (Venue TBC)

Grand Bahama – Monday, 1st June 2026 | 5:00 p.m. | University of The Bahamas North, Courtyard



Academic Dress

Candidates **must** wear appropriate attire for the Commencement ceremony and be guided by the following:

- Required attire for the ceremony is a black mortarboard cap and gown. There will be no exceptions.
- Students are advised not to wear dresses, blouses or shirts with high necklines or bright colours that will detract from their academic dress.

- Hair styles must be suitable for the proper adornment of the mortarboard (academic cap).
- Candidates are permitted to wear their honours cords, pins and stoles at Commencement ceremony.
- **Candidates are to enter the Commencement ceremony venue hooded and adorning the appropriate honours cord.**
- The mortarboard is to be worn with the front point over the forehead, below the front hairline so that the flat board is parallel to the floor. The mortarboard is not to be worn on the back of the head with the board pointing upward.
- Mortarboard tassels are to be worn on the right, with the tassel hanging near the right eye.



Commencement Arrival

New Providence

The Commencement Ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, 28th May at the Amphitheatre, Nassau Cruise Port.

New Providence candidates are to meet at a venue to be confirmed beginning at 5:00 p.m. and **no later than 5:30 p.m.** Candidates will assemble for the academic procession **by 5:45 p.m.** and the line-up will commence **at 6:15 p.m.**

Candidates are to assemble in accordance with the academic unit to which they belong, fully hooded and adorned with the appropriate honours cord. The procession will leave **promptly at 6:40 p.m.** for a **7:00 p.m. ceremony start time.** Once the academic procession enters the Amphitheatre, Nassau Cruise Port, guests will remain seated for the duration of the procession.

Candidates who arrive after the start of the academic procession are not to join the procession. Instead, those candidates are to report to a marshal or protocol officer who will escort them to a seat. Marshals and academic unit representatives will be present to assist with information for the procession.

Grand Bahama

The Commencement Ceremony for University of The Bahamas North will be held on **Thursday, 4th June at 10:00 a.m.** at University of The Bahamas North, Courtyard.

Grand Bahama candidates are to arrive and assemble in the assigned room on campus in their academic regalia **no later than 8:30 a.m.** in order to facilitate the academic procession which begins **promptly at 9:45 a.m.**

Candidates who arrive after the start of the academic procession are not to join the procession. Instead, those candidates are to report to a marshal or protocol officer who will escort them to a seat. Marshals and academic unit representatives will be present to assist with information for the procession.

Commencement Protocol and Decorum

Commencement is a formal ceremony. Inappropriate behaviour **will not** be tolerated. This means:

- No balloons
- No fireworks
- No cowbells and whistles
- No horns
- No alcoholic beverages
- No chewing gum
- No eating
- No contraband

Persons, including candidates, who choose not to abide by these rules **will not** be allowed to participate and will be escorted from the ceremony.

Special Instructions

1. Each graduand at UB Oakes Field will be allowed **four (4) ticketed guests (inclusive of adults and children)** for the Commencement Ceremony.

Tickets will be distributed at the rehearsal in New Providence and will also be available for collection after the rehearsal date from Chapter One Bookstore before Wednesday, May 27th before 5:00 p.m.

Tickets must be presented at the designated Welcome Centre, Nassau Cruise Port, for admission. Admission wristbands will be issued at the Commencement Ceremony and must be worn for entry and re-entry.

2. Candidates are to come fully dressed for the occasion. All are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear. As handbags, tote bags and other items may likely be cumbersome, those should be left behind or with family members or guests prior to arriving at the assembly location.
3. Respect the dignity of the ceremony and the academic robe by avoiding the attachments of jewelry, flowers, personal decorations or signs to the academic regalia. Please note that graduands are permitted to decorate their mortarboards (caps) in a tasteful and appropriate manner. Additionally, chewing gum, eating and drinking detract from the solemnity of the occasion and are absolutely prohibited.
4. Candidates are to refrain from inappropriately celebrating (i.e., gyrating and dancing on stage; calling the names of others; loud, offensive noises and gestures, etc.) during the ceremony.
5. Candidates should enter the processional with the tassel on the right, hanging near the right eye.

Parking, Shuttle and Transfer Arrangements

Kindly note that a follow-up communiqué will be issued, providing specific details regarding transfer and shuttle times.

Parking lots and designated locations will be clearly outlined on the official Commencement Map for the Nassau Cruise Port and surrounding parking areas. Guests are responsible for the cost of parking.

Shuttle and transfer services to and from Nassau Cruise Port Ampitheatre, will be provided at the expense of University of The Bahamas.

Seating

Special guests attending Commencement will be accommodated in pre-determined seating as outlined by protocol officers, ushers or security. Special needs access and seating are available at the Nassau Cruise Port.

Protocol officers, security officers and student ambassadors will direct guests to their designated seating areas.



Order of Academic Procession

This year's procession will feature a revised format. Further details regarding the meeting point and the full procession route to the Nassau Cruise Port will be shared in the next communication.

Graduands and all procession participants will be transported to the designated meeting point in preparation for a 6:40 p.m. start. All are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear, arrive on time, and follow all instructions from marshals and event coordinators to ensure an orderly procession.

The procession will proceed into the amphitheatre for a **7:00 p.m. ceremony start time**. Guests are kindly requested to be seated in advance to receive the Academic Procession. Video screens will be installed to allow guests to view the procession as it makes its way to the amphitheatre.

- Chief Marshal
- Candidates for Graduation (in order of the academic unit to which they belong)
- Faculty
- Academic Senate
- Executive Leadership Team
- Board of Trustees
- Academic Deans
- Platform Guests
- Commencement Speaker

- Chairperson, Board of Trustees
- Provost & Vice President, Academic Affairs
- Mace Bearer
- President

Photography

Professional photographers will capture a photograph of each graduand as he/she receives a diploma. Proofs will be made available within two (2) weeks following the ceremony.

At each Commencement Ceremony venue, a designated photo area will be reserved for guests to capture photos as graduands receive diplomas. Please note that space is limited.

University-branded backdrops will be strategically placed near the amphitheatre for post-ceremony photo opportunities.

Recessional

The recessional includes the platform guests and participants, faculty and graduates. Family, friends and invited guests are to remain at their seats until the recessional has left the Ampitheatre.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. In doing so, you, your family and guests will leave with positive memories of your University of The Bahamas commencement experience.





Baccalaureate Service



New Providence

The Baccalaureate Service will be held on **Sunday, 24th May 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Keva M. Bethel Building, Performing Arts Centre, Oakes Field Campus**. Candidates are asked to arrive **no later than 5:15 p.m.** in preparation for the Baccalaureate Procession. The Procession will begin **promptly at 5:45 p.m.**

Grand Bahama

The Baccalaureate Service will be held on **Tuesday, 2nd June 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Freeport Bible Church**. Candidates are asked to arrive **no later than 6:00 p.m.** and assemble in the foyer of the Church in preparation for the Baccalaureate Procession. The procession will begin **promptly at 6:45 p.m.**

Preparation for Service

- Ensure that all academic attire items are secured at least one week in advance.
- While assembling outside the church, comments are to be whispered as noise carries.
- Once the procession has arrived inside the church, gestures and conversations should cease. Acknowledge the presence of familiar faces with a nod.

Candidates who arrive after the start of the Baccalaureate Service are to wait for a protocol officer to seat them.

Academic Attire

Attire for the Baccalaureate service consists of the graduation gown and black shoes. **Hoods, caps, honour medals, cords or sashes are not** to be worn on this occasion. Candidates are advised not to leave anything of value behind once the procession departs.



Distribution of Diplomas

The dates for the distribution of diplomas in New Providence and Grand Bahama will be released at a later date. Please check your UB email and UB's Facebook and Instagram pages for updates.



Availability of Transcripts

Transcripts will be available online and from the Office of the Registrar **effective 5th May 2026.**



University of The Bahamas Alma Mater

We've come to build together a dream for this great land,

Like palm trees tall upon this landfall called Bahamaland.
The future is before us like endless sea and sand.
We'll chart a course with alma mater proudly we will stand.

A beacon for these islands embraced in shallow seas,
UB will lift our spirits high for all the world to see.
With hands and hearts together we'll be a guiding light,
We'll live to praise our alma mater 'neath the clear blue skies.
We'll live to raise our alma mater's banner waving high!

Music and words by Mr. Christian Justilien (2016)

