**Biology Graduation Information**

**2020**

*(Updated May 14, 2019)*

**Ceremony Day & Time**

Saturday, May 9, 2020

 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM

**Ceremony Location**

Carmichael Arena (inside and air-conditioned!)

310 South Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Enter only through the doors next to Hooker Field

**Doors open at 5:30 PM** - Because there is a large ceremony ahead of the Biology Ceremony, the doors will open no earlier than 5:30 PM to allow for their guests to leave and for the staff of Carmichael to prepare the arena for our ceremony. **We cannot guarantee that the Carmichael doors will be opened before 5:30 PM. Please plan accordingly. We suggest that you pack your patience and your own bottled water.**

**Reception Location**

 Hooker Field (next to Carmichael Arena)

 Outside – light refreshments & drinks will be covered by tents

**Reception Time**

 7:15 PM – 8:30 PM

**Weather**

 Temperatures can range from middle 70’s to low 90’s!

 Be prepared if you have to wait to get into the Arena.

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLED WATER!!!**

Light refreshments and drinks will be available at the reception only after the ceremony. There are water fountains inside Carmichael.

**Parking**

The Bell Tower Parking Deck is reserved for Biology ceremony guests.

 There will be a monitor at the deck.

Bell Tower Deck location: 285 Bell Tower Drive (off South Road, enter driveway beside Coker Hall)

Parking is free! NO PERMIT is required – no matter what the sign at the parking deck says!

Please note that it is a 3 ½ block walk (15 minutes) from the parking deck to Carmichael Arena.

If walking this distance is a problem for you, there will be two golf carts to take guests back and forth to the ceremony & reception.

**Accessible Parking**

For those with a state-issued permit, parking is available on a first come, first-served basis along South Road between the soccer fields and the cemetery or the School of Government parking deck. Note that there are several events going on at the same time that day and we are unable to permanently reserve disability parking. (For the UNC Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, please contact the office of Accessibility Resources and Services).

For those without a commencement or state-issued permit, we suggest that you drop your guests off at Carmichael Arena and then park in the Bell Tower Deck (3 ½ blocks away).

There will be two golf carts to take guests back and forth to the ceremony & reception.

There is a ramp leading to the entrance doors facing Hooker Field. Please note that there is a large ceremony before ours and the doors will open for our guests at 5:30 PM.

**Tickets**

No tickets are needed. This event is free. There is plenty of seating in Carmichael Arena to accommodate your guests. The arena seats 10,000 and we have around 3,800 guests attend our ceremony every year.

**Biology undergraduate seniors who can walk in our ceremony**

August/December 2019 graduates and May/August/December 2020 undergraduate degree candidates are invited to walk in our ceremony. Biology majors, 2nd majors and minors are included. No actual diplomas are given out, but your name will be called out and you will walk across the stage to get a Certificate of Congratulations signed by the Biology Chair. We expect a little over 400 degree candidates to attend to this ceremony.

**Certificates**

 We do NOT give diplomas!

All graduates will get a Certificate of Congratulations.

 Certificates are NOT personalized.

 Sorry – certificates are only give to those who attend the ceremony.

 No certificates will be mailed.

**Dress**

This is a formal event, so proudly wear your academic regalia (cap, gown, honors cords or other authorized cords). There is no dress code for guests.

**Seating for graduating students**

There is NO processional for the graduates. Graduates in their caps and gowns will be seated on the floor of Carmichael Arena. ONLY graduates and ushers will be permitted on the floor of Carmichael! Graduates – **go directly to the Arena floor** when you arrive and find your seat. There will be a green card with your name on it on a chair. Please be at your seat no later than 5:45 PM. YOU MUST SIT IN YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT! Seating will be alphabetical EXCEPT the following: Senior Honors Thesis students, UNC BEST students, and the senior keynote speaker will be seated on the front rows.

If you have not registered to attend this event, please see a Biology staff member (on the main floor by the stage) and he/she will have a name card for you. You will be seated in the back rows behind the assigned seats.

For those who have registered, look for your green name card in alphabetical order on the seats on the floor of Carmichael. Each seat will have a green card with your name, phonetic pronunciation of your name and instructions. Do not lose this name card!! Take it with you when you line up next to the stage.

**Accessible seating for guests**

Plenty of accessible seating is available. When you enter Carmichael Arena through the doors facing Hooker Field, go either to your right towards Portal 4 or to your left through Portal 5 (ushers will be on hand to assist you). The entire area between Portal 4 and Portal 5 is an expanded seating area to accommodate wheelchairs. It is located on the same level as you enter between the upper and lower level guest seating in the center of the arena - directly across from the stage. It is behind sections 101-109. Sorry – neither the Department of Biology or Carmichael Arena is able to supply wheelchairs.

If you require any other accommodations, please contact Summer Montgomery (sundance@unc.edu) at least two weeks in advance so the appropriate arrangements can be made. We will make our best faith effort to accommodate requests submitted after this timeframe.

**Accessible seating for graduating seniors**

If you require any accommodations, please contact Summer Montgomery (sundance@unc.edu) at least two weeks in advance so the appropriate arrangements can be made. We will make our best faith effort to accommodate requests submitted after this timeframe. Graduating seniors will be seated on the floor of Carmichael Arena in assigned seats. There is an elevator to the floor level. When you enter the glass front doors of Carmichael, go to your left. At the end of the hall is the elevator. On the ground floor, take a left after you get off the elevator – you’ll soon see the arena floor. There is a ramp on both ends of the stage so no matter if you are using a wheelchair, crutches, Segway, scooter, etc. you will be able to easily access & exit the stage.

**What to expect at the ceremony**

The ceremony will last 1 ½ hours. Biology undergraduate student awards and the Biology Faculty Award for excellence in teaching will be handed out. The graduation address will be given by a graduating senior. Finally, each graduate will walk across the stage as his/her name is called. You will get a Certificate of Congratulations from the Biology Chair. A professional photographer will be there to take each graduate’s picture. You are not obligated to purchase the pictures. The ceremony will NOT be filmed or live-streamed. For safety and space reasons, family and friends will NOT be able to come to the Carmichael floor or stage area to take pictures before, during and after the ceremony. A reception will be held outside next to Carmichael Arena on Hooker Field immediately after the ceremony ends.

**Senior Honors Thesis, UNC BEST, senior keynote speaker seating**

Senior Honors Thesis students, UNC BEST students and the senior keynote speaker will be seated in alphabetical order on the front rows. Honors students - remember to wear your honors cords.

**Participants not registered**

**SEATING FOR GRADUATES IS LIMITED!**

**We cannot promise that we will have a seat and a certificate for you if you have not registered by the deadline.**

**Stage instructions**

When the marshal stands next to your row, it’s time to line up on the right side of the stage. Bring your name card with you! Hand your name card to the usher when you get to the top of the stairs. As your name is called, walk across the stage in front of the podium/faculty/tables and get your certificate from the Biology Chair. A professional photographer will be on hand to take you picture with the Chair as you receive your certificate and again after you have exited the stage. Return to your original seat after your picture is taken in front of the flags. Please remain seated until all graduates have received their certificates and the ceremony has concluded. After the playing of *Hark the Sound*, you are free to leave. You will NOT march out as a group.

**Certificates – NOT diplomas – will be given**

A Certificate of Congratulations will be given to each student. This is NOT confirmation of your Biology degree. Your official UNC diploma will be mailed to you by the Registrar’s Office in August. Sorry – certificates cannot be mailed if you are not able to attend. Certificates are NOT personalized.

**Professional Photographer**

Photo Specialties of Chapel Hill will have professional photographers on hand to take two pictures of you – one on stage with the Biology Chair as they present your certificate to you and another after you exit the stage against a flag backdrop as you are holding your certificate. You are under no obligation to purchase these pictures. Proofs will be sent to you in the week following the ceremony. The students not only receive a proof in the mail, but they also receive a link via email directly to their proofs so they can order online within days of the ceremony. Their email address is: info@photospecialties.com

**Reception**

The reception will be held immediately after the ceremony on Hooker Field – adjacent to Carmichael Arena. Light refreshments will be served. The reception typically lasts an hour. If you have dietary restrictions, please contact Summer Montgomery (sundance@unc.edu) at least two weeks in advance so the appropriate arrangements can be made. We will make our best faith effort to accommodate requests submitted after this timeframe.

**Social Media**

Please share your Biology Ceremony pictures via these social media outlets:

Instagram: UNC\_BiologyUndergrads

Facebook: UNCBiologyUndergrads

Twitter Hogan\_Shemer

*“You have brains in your head.*

*You have feet in your shoes.*

*You can steer yourself any direction you choose.*

*You're on your own. And you know what you know.*

*And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go...”
―* [*Dr. Seuss*](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/61105.Dr_Seuss)*,* [*Oh, the Places You'll Go!*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2125304)