

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR*

FALL SEMESTER 2026

NOTE: Failure to meet deadlines may impact when degree is completed and awarded.

*ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MASTER'S NON-THESIS OPTION		
July 3	Friday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive degree plan in DPSS if graduating in December 2026.
August 10	Monday	First day to apply for degrees to be awarded in December 2026.
August 21	Friday	Last day to register for Fall semester classes. Refer to the Student Business Services website for more information on billing due dates.
August 24	Monday	First day of Fall semester classes.
August 28	Friday	Last day to CLEAR for August 2026 graduation. (Applies ONLY to those students not clearing final degree evaluation on day of final degree audit.)
August 28	Friday	Last day for adding/dropping courses for the Fall semester by 5:00 p.m.
September 4	Friday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive a completed MDD petition in DPSS from master's students to change degree level (e.g. master's to doctoral). ALL level changes must be processed before the 12th Class Day in order to be effective for Fall 2026.
September 9	Wednesday	Last day for the Registrar's office to approve a certificate added by the student's department for the Fall semester. Certificates are not added by the Graduate and Professional School.
September 25	Friday	LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR DEGREES TO BE AWARDED IN DECEMBER BY 5:00PM without a late fee. A diploma fee of \$47.50 must be paid either at registration or at the Fiscal Office (GSC). Complete the application for degree form via the Howdy Portal. A LATE CHARGE OF \$50.00 WILL BE ASSESSED TO STUDENTS WHO APPLY FOR GRADUATION AFTER 09-25-2026.
September 28	Monday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive a completed MDD petition in DPSS from master's students to change a degree within the same level (e.g. master's to master's) and graduate in December 2026.
October 26	Monday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive completed coursework petitions in DPSS to change degree plan coursework from master's students in programs without a final examination requirement.
October 26	Monday	Last day or 10 working days prior to the examination, whichever comes first for the Graduate and Professional School to receive completed "Final Exam Request" in ARCS .
October 26	Monday	Last day for the Graduate and Professional School to receive completed "Request for Exemption from Final Examination" in ARCS .
November 4	Wednesday	Last day to apply for graduation in Howdy (online). A paper application will need to be submitted after this date.
November 9	Monday	Last day to take final examination.
November 16	Monday	Last day for all students to drop courses for the Fall semester with no penalty (Q-drop). Last day to officially withdraw from the University for the Fall semester.
December 3	Thursday	Last day to apply for graduation.

MASTER'S THESIS OPTION		
July 3	Friday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive degree plan in DPSS if graduating in December 2026.
July 20	Monday	Electronic Thesis/Dissertation System re-opens for December 2026 degree candidates.
August 10	Monday	First day to apply for degrees to be awarded in December 2026.
August 10	Monday	First day students are able to clear Thesis and Dissertation Services for December 2026 graduation.
August 21	Friday	Last day to register for Fall semester classes. Refer to the Student Business Services website for more information on billing due dates.
August 24	Monday	First day of Fall semester classes.
August 28	Friday	Last day to CLEAR for August 2026 graduation. (Applies ONLY to those students not clearing final degree evaluation on day of final degree audit.)

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August 28	Friday	Last day for adding/dropping courses for the Fall semester by 5:00 p.m.
August 28	Friday	Last day to clear Thesis and Dissertation Services to avoid registration in Fall 2026 semester.
September 4	Friday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive a completed MDD petition in DPSS from master's students to change degree level (e.g. master's to doctoral). ALL level changes must be processed before the 12th Class Day in order to be effective for Fall 2026.
September 9	Wednesday	Last day for the Registrar's office to approve a certificate added by the student's department for the Fall semester. Certificates are not added by the Graduate and Professional School.
September 14	Monday	Last day for the Graduate and Professional School to receive Thesis Research Proposal Form in ARCS for December degree candidates.
September 25	Friday	LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR DEGREES TO BE AWARDED IN DECEMBER BY 5:00PM without a late fee. A diploma fee of \$47.50 must be paid either at registration or at the Fiscal Office (GSC). Complete the application for degree form via the Howdy Portal. A LATE CHARGE OF \$50.00 WILL BE ASSESSED TO STUDENTS WHO APPLY FOR GRADUATION AFTER 09-25-2026.
September 28	Monday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive a completed MDD petition in DPSS from master's students to change a degree within the same level (e.g. master's to master's) and graduate in December 2026.
October 2	Friday	Last day or 10 working days prior to the examination, whichever comes first for the Graduate and Professional School to receive completed "Final Exam Request" in ARCS .
October 2	Friday	Last day for the Graduate and Professional School to receive completed "Request for Exemption from Final Examination" in ARCS .
October 16	Friday	Last day to take final examination.
October 30	Friday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive the completed/approved Written Thesis Approval form in ARCS . The PDF file of thesis must be uploaded via the web to Electronic Thesis/Dissertation System †by 5:00 p.m.
November 4	Wednesday	Last day to apply for graduation in Howdy (online). A paper application will need to be submitted after this date.
November 16	Monday	Last day for all students to drop courses for the Fall semester with no penalty (Q-drop). Last day to officially withdraw from the University for the Fall semester.
December 3	Thursday	Last day to apply for graduation.

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Preliminary examination results must be received and approved by the Graduate and Professional School prior to submitting the "Final Exam" in ARCS.

July 3	Friday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive degree plan in DPSS if graduating in December 2026.
July 20	Monday	Electronic Thesis/Dissertation System re-opens for December 2026 degree candidates.
August 10	Monday	First day to apply for degrees to be awarded in December 2026.
August 10	Monday	First day students are able to clear Thesis and Dissertation Services for December 2026 graduation.
August 21	Friday	Last day to register for Fall semester classes. Refer to the Student Business Services website for more information on billing due dates.
August 24	Monday	First day of Fall semester classes.
August 28	Friday	Last day to CLEAR for August 2026 graduation. (Applies ONLY to those students not clearing final degree evaluation on day of final degree audit.)
August 28	Friday	Last day for adding/dropping courses for the Fall semester by 5:00 p.m.
August 28	Friday	Last day to clear Thesis and Dissertation Services to avoid registration in Fall 2026 semester.
September 4	Friday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive a completed MDD petition in DPSS from doctoral students to change degree level (e.g. doctoral to masters) and graduate in December 2026. ALL level changes must be processed before the 12th Class Day in order to be effective for Fall 2026.

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September 9	Wednesday	Last day for the Registrar's office to approve a certificate added by the student's department for the Fall semester. Certificates are not added by the Graduate and Professional School.
September 25	Friday	LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR DEGREES TO BE AWARDED IN DECEMBER BY 5:00PM without a late fee. A diploma fee of \$47.50 must be paid either at registration or at the Fiscal Office (GSC). Complete the application for degree form via the Howdy Portal. A LATE CHARGE OF \$50.00 WILL BE ASSESSED TO STUDENTS WHO APPLY FOR GRADUATION AFTER 09-25-2026.
September 28	Monday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive a completed MDD petition in DPSS from master's students to change a degree within the same level (e.g. master's to master's) and graduate in December 2026.
October 2	Friday	Last day or 10 working days prior to the examination, whichever comes first for the Graduate and Professional School to receive completed "Final Exam Request" in ARCS .
October 16	Friday	Last day to take final examination.
October 30	Friday	Last day for Graduate and Professional School to receive the completed/approved Written Dissertation/Record of Study Approval form in ARCS . The PDF file of the dissertation must be uploaded via the web to Electronic Thesis/Dissertation System †by 5:00 p.m.
November 4	Wednesday	Last day to apply for graduation in Howdy (online). A paper application will need to be submitted after this date.
November 16	Monday	Last day for all students to drop courses for the Fall semester with no penalty (Q-drop). Last day to officially withdraw from the University for the Fall semester.
December 3	Thursday	Last day to apply for graduation.

CLEARANCE FOR DECEMBER 2026 DEGREE CANDIDATES

December 10	Thursday	Academic Degree Evaluations conducted the Thursday before Graduation Ceremony. Academic Degree Evaluation results available once reports run.
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COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

December 11-12	Fri./Sat.	Master's and Doctoral Commencement (additional information available on the Graduation Website .)
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ADDITIONAL DEADLINES FOR DEGREES TO BE CONFERRED IN DECEMBER 2026

January 22, 2027	Friday	Last day to CLEAR for December 2026 graduation. (Applies ONLY to those students not clearing final degree evaluation on day of final degree audit.)
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For relevant forms and processes, see the Graduate and Professional School [Knowledge Center](#).

† NOTE: Meeting Thesis & Dissertation Services deadlines does not guarantee, but merely maintains, eligibility for graduation/clearance in a certain time frame.

NOTE: DPSS – A completed degree plan or petition in DPSS must have all of the required department and committee signatures to arrive in the Graduate and Professional School queue for approval.