

Graduate & Law Students: Permission to Participate Commencement 2026

Deadline: April 10, 2026

- A **Master's (MA/MS/MFA/MAT/MBA/MPP) candidate** having a thesis requirement may participate in the Spring Commencement Ceremony only if the student has completed all course requirements prior to commencement and has the reasonable possibility of finishing the thesis by the end of the fall semester following commencement. In the MFA program, the visual thesis must also be completed prior to commencement. Master's students with a non-thesis option may participate in the graduation ceremonies only if they: (a) have three (3) or fewer credits to complete to earn their degree; (b) complete those three (3) or fewer credits in the summer immediately following commencement and prior to the start of the ensuing fall semester; (c) are registered for those three (3) or fewer credits by Commencement day; (d) are expected to complete any other graduation requirements (e.g., project report) by the end of the ensuing fall semester; and (e) have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. **Master's degree candidates who will not complete all degree requirements by commencement day but seek this option are required to submit this Permission to Participate in Commencement form along with required graduate program director/college dean signatures and, if applicable, proof of summer registration to the Registrar's Office.**
- A **Law (JD) candidate** may participate in the Spring commencement Ceremony only if they (a) need nine or fewer credits to complete all degree requirements; (b) are registered by commencement day for summer term courses that would satisfy their remaining credits; and (c) are expected to complete any other graduation requirements by the end of the summer term. **Law (JD) degree candidates who will not complete all degree requirements by commencement day but seek this option are required to submit this Permission to Participate in Commencement form along with required college dean signature and, if applicable, proof of summer registration to the Registrar's Office.**
- A **Doctoral (PhD) candidate** must complete all degree requirements prior to participating in the commencement ceremonies. Doctoral candidates may participate in the Ceremony if they have received the written approval of all committee members, successfully defended their dissertation by Commencement day, and any necessary revisions to finalize the dissertation are minor and will be completed by May 31st. **Doctoral students are not eligible to complete this permission to participate form and should discuss their eligibility with the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies.**

Student Name	Student ID Number	Student Email Address	Cumulative GPA

Career: Graduate (Master's degree only - not PhD) Law

Major/Program of Study	College/School	Total Summer Credits

Are you registered for Summer 2026 courses to fulfill your degree requirements?

YES at UMass D YES at another institution

Courses yet to be Completed:

Course Number	Course Title	Institution

Continuation of Thesis Registration (Graduate Students Only)

Student Signature	Date

Graduate Program Director Name	Graduate Program Director Signature	Date

College Dean's Office Representative Name	College Dean's Office Representative Signature	Date