Information for Graduating Seniors

Graduation is not an automatic process. Please read the details below to ensure a smooth path to graduation, earning your degree, and celebrating the occasion.

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What is a Senior Appointment?

A Senior Appointment ideally can be scheduled about 2.5 quarters before you plan to graduate. (For example, if you plan to graduate at the end of Spring Quarter, it will be most appropriate to schedule your Senior Appointment in the first half of the preceding Autumn Quarter.) Senior Appointments may be scheduled up to one year in advance, and are typically 30 minutes or less. The absolute deadline to submit a Graduation Application is the third Friday of the intended quarter of graduation. To submit a Graduation Application, a Senior Appointment will be required.

In a Senior Appointment with an adviser, we will cover:
- Graduation Application
- Graduating Senior Priority
- Verify your remaining degree requirements, using DARS
- Verify requirements for any minors (if applicable)
- Important details to know about your final few quarters
- Recommendations for “next steps” (e.g. graduate school & career/internship exploration, etc.)
- Any questions you may have

To request your Senior Appointment, please send an email to econadv@uw.edu with the following:
- Name
- Student Number
- Intended/Projected Quarter of Graduation
- Suggested days/times to meet
  - Please remember that appointments cannot be scheduled during the drop-in advising hours (11am-12pm, 2-3pm) or the office lunchtime closure (12-1pm).

Reminders to students to schedule Senior Appointments will be sent at the start of each academic quarter. Appointments are made on a space-available basis. Senior Appointments may not occur during the advising drop-in/quick-question hours nor the first week of each quarter. Please see here for more details regarding advising appointment requests.

What is a Graduation Application?

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A Graduation Application must be verified with an adviser during your Senior Appointment, and is the department’s recommendation to the University for you to earn your degree. Your degree is ultimately granted by the UW Office of Graduation & Academic Records (UW Office of the Registrar). If you will graduate with a double major or a double degree, you must submit a second Graduation Application with your other department(s) as well.

**Graduation Applications must be submitted by the 3rd Friday of the quarter you plan to graduate.** However, if you want Graduating Senior Priority registration, you must apply earlier (see below).

Not sure if you’ve already applied to graduate? Check a brand new DARS, see if there is a “Graduation Date” listed for you (e.g. AUT/2014, WIN/2015, etc.). If the “Graduation Date” says “Not Found”, then you likely have yet to submit a Graduation Application. If you have a graduation date listed, then you have successfully submitted your Graduation Application.

Students who change their ECON major (BA to BS, or BS to BA, for example), after completing the Senior Appointment, will have to contact an adviser to complete a new Graduation Application for your new ECON major.

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**Graduating Senior Priority (GSP) Registration**

Graduating Senior Priority (GSP) allows students to register for classes on the first day of Period I. Students are eligible for a maximum of two quarters of GSP. By submitting your Graduation Application early (2.5 quarters in advance recommended), you can receive up to two quarters of GSP. For instance, if you are planning to graduate in June, you should meet with an adviser in early Autumn Quarter so that you can have GSP for Winter and Spring Quarters.

See the [Academic Calendar](https://www.washington.edu/) for dates of registration.

When you have used your GSP for two quarters, and if you are still attending classes, then you will revert to regular senior priority. You can “save” your GSP by simply not using it and registering during regular senior registration. In this regard, GSP does not necessarily need to be used in consecutive quarters.

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**UW Residence Credit Requirement (“Final 60-credit Requirement”)**

The UW requires that students must complete 45 of his/her last 60 credits while “in residence” at the UW. Distance learning courses, courses from other schools, and courses taken at UW Tacoma or UW Bothell are considered “out of residence” credits. Read more about the [UW Residence Credit policy](https://www.washington.edu/).*

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**Check your DARS! (Degree Audit Reporting System)**

Your Degree Audit Reporting System (or DARS, for short) is a great tool to help you plan and identify your remaining requirements for the Department of Economics, College of Arts & Sciences, and University of Washington. You can also use DARS to check on any Minor(s) or other Majors you may have declared. Be sure to check your DARS regularly and thoroughly, and always request an updated DARS. [Read a tutorial on how to use DARS](https://www.washington.edu/).*

**Checking your DARS before your Senior Appointment is suggested and really helpful to the advisers!**

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**UW Commencement and UW ECON Departmental Graduation Ceremonies**

You can visit the [UW Commencement](https://www.washington.edu/)* website for information regarding the Commencement Ceremony that occurs each June. On this site, you will find event information, including guest tickets, eligibility, ordering announcements & photos, purchasing parking permits, etc.

You may complete your degree any quarter of your choice, however, you may “walk” in the June ceremony if you complete your degree in the previous December or March, June or the following August. See this helpful [checklist](https://www.washington.edu/).*

Department of Economics students and their families and friends are invited to the Economics Department Graduation Celebration each June. This celebration will include a ceremony, keynote speaker, department awards, presentation of the graduates, and will be followed by a reception. Click here for details about the [Economics Department Graduation Celebration](https://www.washington.edu/).*

Registration for both the UW Commencements and the Economics Department Graduation Celebration will begin in May.

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**Diplomas and Degree Validation**
The first indication of your earned degree will appear on your transcript. Degrees are posted to your transcript by the UW Office of Graduation & Academic Records approximately 2-3 weeks after the end of the quarter, upon verification that you have completed all requirements for the UW, College of Arts & Sciences, and Department of Economics. It takes 3-4 months for diplomas to arrive in the mail. Diplomas are sent by the Office of the University Registrar. Please be sure to check your MyUW address settings to ensure that your diploma will arrive to the correct address.

Prospective employers, graduate programs, and others who require verification that you’ve earned your degree can access this information through a UW Degree Validation website.

Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Economics Honor Society) and Baccalaureate Honors

Economics juniors and seniors who have demonstrated high scholarship in the Department of Economics and UW coursework will receive invitations to join Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE), the international honor society for economics. Eligible students will have earned a minimum of 20 upper-division (3XX- and 4XX-level) economics credits, maintained at least a 3.6 ECON GPA and a 3.5 UW GPA.

Baccalaureate Honors are: Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude. These honors are awarded upon graduation to undergraduates who are earning their first bachelor's degree with at least 90 credits taken at UW. Of these 90 credits, 60 must be numerically graded (extension credits do not count toward these 60 credits). These honors awards are not directly related to the Departmental or College Honors Programs. They also represent the top 10% of students in each of the UW's schools and colleges.

Students graduating with Baccalaureate Honors are given a gold honor cord to wear for the UW Commencement Ceremony. For students graduating in the spring, the honors listed in the Commencement Program (and honor cord distribution), are based on the student’s cumulative GPA through the preceding Winter Quarter. Spring Quarter grades are ultimately included in the credit totals and GPA calculations, determining whether the honors are posted to the student’s final record. You can find more information about baccalaureate honors, the Dean's list, and other honors societies on the UW Baccalaureate Honors site.

Planning for Jobs, Internships, Careers & Graduate School

Take advantage of the Career & Internship Center. While you are a current student, most of their services are free to students. The Career & Internship Center offers help in job-hunting skills, career planning, and more!

Students may also consider the GEN ST 350: Navigating Career Options course, which is facilitated by a Career Counselor. Also, sign up for their HuskyJobs service on their web site, which will allow you to post your resume online as well as search for jobs and internships.

Completing an internship is a good idea for students with limited work experience. The Carlson Center maintains postings of internships and volunteer opportunities.

The Career Center is also a great place to start your exploration for graduate schools and programs.

Regarding Letters of Recommendation and any future references that you may need down the road for jobs & graduate schools.

- Letters of Recommendation: A Primer
- Letters of Recommendation: Tips from the Office of Merit Scholarships & Awards

Be an Active Alumni!

The Economics Graduates of the Last Decade (ECON GOLD) is a great way to network and meet recent alumni of the Department of Economics. Many events and activities are free!

ECON GOLD is a part of the larger Economics Outreach Network (EcON), which helps Department of Economics alumni stay involved through a variety of networking, stewardship, and mentorship opportunities.

The UW Alumni Association is a network of over 50,000 alumni Huskies, with chapters and regional groups all over the country and the world! The UWAA offers a complimentary one-year membership to its most-recent alumni, numerous opportunities to network with fellow Huskies, and alumni services such as library access and a UW alumni email account.
What happens to my email?

Graduation Checklist for International Students

International students are highly encouraged to attend a Final Year Workshop at International Student Services, which will provide helpful information and important things to think about for your final year at the UW.

Graduating Senior Survey

During your final quarter, you will receive a request from Economics Advising to complete a Graduating Senior Survey via UW Catalyst. The survey is completely anonymous, and its results will help the Department of Economics assess its services. Your participation is highly encouraged and greatly appreciated.

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