



Q: What will be the official date of my degree?

A: The official degree conferral date for on-cycle Spring graduates will be the end of Spring quarter date: May 15th, 2026. For on-cycle Summer graduates it will be the end of Summer quarter date: July 31st, 2026. Certain PhD students may receive off-cycle dates depending on when they finish all requirements.

Q: Is this the same as my graduation date?

A: Yes. The official degree conferral date is the date that will appear on your diploma and final transcript and which we will verify as your official graduation date in any future circumstances. You are considered graduated as of that date. It has nothing to do with the date of the Commencement ceremony. It also has nothing to do with the date we are actually able to process the conferral (i.e., if grades for Spring quarter registrations don't come in until after May 15th, the official conferral date will still be recorded as May 15th once the grades do come in).

Q: Is this the same as my completion date?

A: Yes. We do not make any distinction between verifying completion of requirements and verifying conferral of degree, and cannot verify the one any earlier than the other. This is because conferral of the degree, administratively, means nothing other than the official determination and entry into the official record of the fact that you have completed the degree, and so we cannot verify anything in an official capacity until that is done, regardless of when your last class or final coursework may have occurred. Our auditing of your degree requirements is not officially completed until the degree conferral date at the earliest.

Q: When will my degree be posted to my final transcript?

A: For Spring graduates, we will begin processing degree conferrals on May 15th, but all final grades must be in for the degree to be finalized and posted to the transcript, and there is some processing time involved. You can view your submitted grades on Self-Service under the Grades tab. Please contact your program for any questions about outstanding grades.

Q: Who can receive their diploma?

A: In order to receive your diploma, your degree conferral must be finalized, which only occurs if all requirements are met for the degree (as determined by our official degree audit), all final grades are in and passing, and the official degree conferral date (end of quarter date usually; see above) has passed. Additionally, you must not have any holds preventing the release of your final documents. Please note, our ability to release your diploma is a separate question from your eligibility to walk in the Commencement ceremony.

Q: When will I receive my diploma?

A: There are several factors determining when and how you will receive your diploma, depending on when your actual degree conferral is occurs, whether you are attending Commencement, whether there are any holds preventing its release, and if you will be returning on-campus in the Fall:

If you are graduating at end of Spring quarter and are attending Commencement you will receive your actual diploma at the Commencement ceremony, assuming there are no holds or missing grades or other issues delaying the release of your diploma.

If you are graduating at end of Spring quarter but not attending Commencement your diploma will be shipped out in late June/early July, assuming there are no holds or missing



grades or other issues delaying the release of your diploma, unless you are returning to another on-campus program in the Fall (in which case, see below).

If you are graduating at end of Spring, not attending commencement, but will be attending another program at RFU on-campus in the Fall, we may distribute the diplomas in the Fall when you are back on campus, potentially during Orientation week.

If you are graduating in Summer we cannot release the diploma until after the degree is officially conferred, which for most Summer graduates will not be until July 31st. Assuming there are no holds or missing grades or other issues delaying the release of your diploma, we contact you about delivery of your diploma in the weeks following that degree conferral.

If any holds, missing grades, or other issues delay your ability to be graduated or otherwise prevents the release of your diploma, we will send it as soon as the issue is resolved and we are able to release it.

Q: How will I receive my diploma if I am receiving it at commencement?

A: When you walk across the stage you will receive an empty diploma cover. When you continue back-stage you will exchange this for your real diploma in another cover at the tables staffed by the Registrar's Office.

Q: What if I am walking in Commencement but will not be receiving a diploma there?

A: Some students may still be walking in Commencement even if they will not receive their diploma at that time. This includes graduates from prior quarters who were already mailed their diplomas, students not graduating until Summer quarter, students we are still missing grades for, students who have holds on their account, students who need to complete an Incomplete or Remediation of a course, or who have other issues delaying their ability to have their degree conferred or their diploma released. If this applies to you, you will receive a blank certificate printed with your name inside a diploma cover that is still suitable for photographs, etc.

Q: If I am not receiving my diploma at commencement, where will the diploma be shipped?

A: On the graduation application you would have provided an address for diploma shipment. When we are ready to send out diplomas, we will send an email confirming if this address is still correct, and you will be able to update it again at that time if it is not.

Q: What if I need to update my address to something other than what I put on the graduation application?

A: Please email us at registrar@rosalindfranklin.edu so that we can update the address on your grad app. Updating your contact information on Self-Service will not update your diploma shipping address by itself, so please email us.

Q: Can I pick up my diploma?

A: If you did not receive your diploma at commencement, but it is ready for release (see above), you are welcome to stop by our office, if it has not already been shipped out, and pick it up during normal RFU business hours at any point after the Commencement ceremony.

Q: What information will appear on my diploma?

A: The diploma includes the name of the University and College, the degree title, your own name, the degree conferral date, as well as the signatures of school officers. Please note that



the official record of your degree is the final transcript with degree posted; the diploma is a ceremonial document only.

Q: What size are the diplomas?

A: 11"x14"

Q: Does RFU sell diploma frames?

A: There are diploma frame options available through the Spirit Store. Please contact them for more information.

Q: How and when can I order documents for post-graduation and licensure paperwork (final transcripts, certified diploma copies, state licensure forms, etc.)?

A: Please stay tuned for our instructions which will be sent out in March. Please pay careful attention to our instructions, and your requestor's instructions, about when documents can be sent; some states allow anticipated/expected future dates to be used, but if they require submission only on or after final date of graduation, completion, or degree conferral, we cannot release any such documents or verifications until after your degree has actually been finalized and conferred, so in such cases please do not place your request until then.