

Biology / Biochemistry Convocation Ceremony Instructions for Candidates

1. The Biology / Biochemistry Convocation Ceremony will be held on Thursday May 22, 2025, at 3:00 pm in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. Please arrive at the Pritchard Gym to check in by 2:00 pm. You will check in at the Gym entrance and you will be given a yellow attendance card to fill out. **(You should have registered in advance for your pictures and you should put the registration number on your yellow card for the photographer).** You will then be directed to your assigned group area. Your guests should go directly to the Arena. The Procession of Faculty and Graduates led by the Saffron Kilts Bagpipers into the Arena, will begin promptly at 2:45 PM. **It is essential to be on time. Time is critical and Graduates who arrive late may be unable to participate in the Biology/Biochemistry Convocation Ceremony.**

2. Assembly Areas:

BIO / BCH Student Banner Bearers	Back of Pritchard Gym
Faculty	Back of Pritchard Gym
Biochemistry Majors / Masters Graduates	Group Area 4
Biology Majors/Minors, Last name A - I	Group Area 1
Biology Majors/Minors, Last name J - R	Group Area 2
Biology Majors/Minors, Last name S - Z	Group Area 3

You will hold on to the yellow card until you enter the stage, you will give your card to your Faculty Marshall for your name to be called once you are on the stage next to be called. Biology staff and faculty marshals will help the Graduates line up alphabetically in the Pritchard Gym.

It is essential to maintain your place in line once you are lined up alphabetically. You will be called up to the platform and individually recognized during the Ceremony. The cards will be given in the order you get up on stage to the professional photographer who will document your recognition during the Ceremony, so please make sure that you stay in line according to alphabetical order. Please try not to be late as time is critical. **As a reminder, Graduates who are late may be unable to participate in the Ceremony.**

3. The Procession: (All left/right directions refer to sides as you face the stage)

The Procession will involve two columns with the Biology Majors / Minors in Groups 1 and 2 on the left (preceded by the Biology Banner Bearers and master's Graduates), and Biochemistry Majors in Group 4 / Biology Majors / Minors in Group 3 on the right (preceded by the Biochemistry Banner Bearers). **Tassels should be worn on the right side of your cap!** The procession will start in the Pritchard Gym and proceed to the Arena. Once in the Arena, follow your faculty marshal down the center aisle to the front row and move to your seat in an orderly fashion; Biology graduates' groups 1&2 to the left side and Biochemistry and Biology group 3 to the right. **The Marshals will count the number of students to enter each row, please go all the way to the end of the row so that it is filled with no vacant seats AND REMAIN STANDING!**

The Program

The Convocation Ceremony is comprised of the following elements:

Welcoming remarks and Convocation Address

Presentation of student awards:

- Honors Degrees in Biochemistry
- Honors Degrees in Biology
- Irwin Oster Award
- Student Speaker

Presentation of Degree Candidates:

- Masters Graduates
- Biochemistry Majors
- Biology Majors and Minors

Degree candidates will be presented collectively by Major and then recognized individually. When it is time for your group to be recognized, follow the directions of the faculty Marshal who will have graduates stand up by row and proceed to the platform. When their names are read, **Graduates will enter the platform on the right-hand side, proceed across the stage to receive their certificate(s) and exit via the opposite stairwell on the left-hand side of the platform, return to their seats and be seated.**

Conclusion and exit:

Following brief concluding farewell remarks, the faculty and students will participate in a Recessional march with music again from the bagpipers. The Biology and Biochemistry banner bearers will lead an exit from the Arena through the opening immediately to the right of the platform. The platform party will follow the banner bearers and the marshals will lead their groups, beginning with the front row, from both left and right side (i.e. two columns).

Please keep the procession intact to the Gymnasium.

Just a reminder to all our graduates: Tickets are needed for the University Ceremony as well as the Biology/Biochemistry Ceremony. As you can see from the instructions above, all of our graduates are individually recognized during this Ceremony and there will be a Professional Photographer to take each Student's picture. We sincerely hope to see ALL our Biology / Biochemistry Graduates there celebrating your success

CONGRATULATIONS!!