

POLICY TITLE: Convocation Ceremonies Directives

POLICY CATEGORY: DEPARTMENT

POLICY OWNER: Registrar and Associate Vice-President, Strategic Enrolment

POLICY APPROVER: Provost

APPROVAL DATE: 6/4/2026

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/4/2026

REVIEW PERIOD: Every 5 Years

REVIEWED: N/A

REVISED: N/A

1. Purpose

The purpose of these directives is to provide a framework for George Brown Polytechnic's Convocation Ceremonies.

2. Scope

These directives apply to all George Brown Polytechnic convocation ceremonies.

3. Ceremony Dates

- 3.1. Convocation ceremonies are normally held annually during the month of June.
- 3.2. Ceremony dates and a detailed schedule are published in advance of the ceremonies.

4. Ceremony Attendance

- 4.1. Eligible graduates must RSVP in advance of their scheduled ceremony, and no later than the published deadline to attend.
 - 4.1.1. All graduates must have a valid ticket or stage pass to attend a ceremony.
- 4.2. Graduate and guest tickets will only be released to confirmed eligible graduates who submitted an RSVP prior to the published deadline.
- 4.3. If an eligible graduating student is unable to attend their scheduled Convocation ceremony, they may not opt to attend a ceremony scheduled for an alternate program area or a future graduating class.
- 4.4. Normally, if a graduating student is absent from the ceremony, the credential is conferred in absentia and sent to them by mail.

5. Accessibility at Convocation

- 5.1. George Brown is committed to hosting accessible and inclusive ceremonies and will provide accommodations in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code, AODA, and applicable College policies

5.2. Graduates are provided an opportunity to share accommodation requests in advance through the RSVP process.

5.3. Closed captioning and sign language interpreters are incorporated into each ceremony.

6. Ceremonial Regalia

6.1. Graduates are required to wear the appropriate gown, and hood (if applicable) based on their program, to participate in their convocation ceremony.

6.1.1. All graduates are provided with a rental gown to be worn over their clothing during the ceremony.

6.1.2. All degree graduates are provided with a rental hood to be worn during the ceremony.

6.1.3. These items will be available upon registration at the venue prior to each ceremony.

6.2. Graduates are responsible for returning their rented regalia at the designated drop-off points at the venue immediately following each ceremony.

6.2.1. If regalia is not returned, the graduate is financially responsible and will be billed accordingly.

7. Indigenous Graduates

7.1. Including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis graduates, are welcome to wear Indigenous regalia, attire, beadwork, ceremonial items, and other items connected to Nation, community, family, or cultural protocols, with or instead of the convocation gown.

8. Identity Expression

8.1. Graduates may wear items of Indigenous, cultural, religious, community, or identity-based significance, provided such items do not create a safety concern, obstruct participation, interfere with the proper wearing of academic regalia, disrupt the ceremony, or include discriminatory, hateful, threatening, harassing, or violent content.

8.2. Large banners, oversized flags, or other objects that obstruct visibility, impede movement, interfere with ceremony operations, or create safety concerns may not be permitted.

9. Ceremonial Roles

9.1. Each Convocation ceremony will include key members of George Brown's academic and administrative leadership team, which may include the following roles:

- President
- Chancellor
- Provost
- Registrar
- Dean and/or Associate Dean for the respective faculties
- Designated faculty members