

GRADUATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Degree Requirements

Students are responsible for knowing and meeting the University's graduation requirements in a specific degree program. To qualify for any degree, the candidate must:

1. Complete all degree requirements specified by the degree program within the time allotted by the statute of limitations;
2. Meet the residency requirement of successfully completing a minimum of two-thirds of the degree Bay Path University;
3. Achieve Bay Path's minimum cumulative grade point average for graduate students (3.0);
4. Complete the Graduation Application and Graduating Student Survey sent to prospective graduating students during their final academic year.

Conferral of Degrees

Bay Path University confers degrees at the end of each semester and eligibility is based on the completion date of a student's degree requirements falling between the end of the previous semester and the last day of classes in the current semester. The conferral date is equivalent to the last day of classes in the respective semester with the exception for the Graduate Full-Term academic calendar's summer semesters (a June 30 conferral date is applied if requirements are met on or prior to that date and an August 31 conferral date is applied if requirements are met after July 1). Certificates pursued concurrently with a degree program will not be awarded until the degree has officially been conferred. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the respective Dean, University Registrar, and the Office of Academic Affairs.

Student Participation in Commencement Exercises

The Commencement ceremony is our culture's most significant public demonstration of educational achievement. Commencement is a highly ritualistic, stylized event with specified protocols and regalia. Like other rituals in our culture, the ritual of conferring degrees, wearing caps and gowns, listening to speeches and acknowledging academic achievement with diplomas all underscore the importance of what one does in the teaching and learning environment. The celebration of Commencement stands as an important and enduring academic tradition and ceremony, set apart from our day to day activities. Most importantly, Commencement marks the completion and conferral of degrees. Students are permitted to participate in only one processional for a completed degree program.

Bay Path University holds their Commencement ceremony each year in May. Students in Associate, Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist in Education, or Doctorate degree programs who received degree conferral during the respective academic year or those on pace to complete their degree requirements by the end of their program's final semester within the academic year are eligible to participate. For graduate students, this means both being enrolled in all outstanding requirements by April 30th and being on pace to complete all outstanding requirements by the end of the academic year. Students who are not on pace to complete their degree requirements during the academic year are not eligible to participate in the current academic year's Commencement ceremony

because they are considered a potential graduate in the following academic year. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the respective Dean, University Registrar, and the Office of Academic Affairs.

Eligible students who have not completed their degree requirements at the time of Commencement will receive a blank diploma cover and will appear in the Commencement program with a notation that degree requirements were incomplete at the time of the printing of the program.

Graduation Name

Bay Path University allows graduates to provide a preferred first, middle, and last name to be listed in the Commencement program and read aloud as they cross the stage. Graduates provide their graduation name when they complete the Graduation Application. The name of graduates who do not complete the Graduation Application at least two weeks before the date of Commencement will reflect their legal name on file. The institution also reserves the right to deny any desired name deemed inappropriate.

Diplomas and transcripts from the institution will reflect the student's legal name on file. Students who wish to update their legal name on file must complete the Personal Information Update Form on the MyBayPath portal and must upload their social security card matching the legal name being requested.

National Honor Societies

Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society

Kappa Delta International Honor Society in Education was founded in 1911 for the purpose of sustaining an honored community of diverse educators by promoting excellence and advanced scholarship, leadership, and service. Membership is open to undergraduate women, and graduate men and women, who meet at least the following requirements. Undergraduate students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 and be at least a second semester sophomore. They must have completed 60 hours of college credit of which at least 18 credit hours are in the education major. Undergraduate students must have at least two semesters in residency at Bay Path University. Graduate students must have a minimum GPA of 3.8 and 12 credit hours completed toward a Master's/Ed.S. degree.

Psi Chi Honor Society

The Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology was founded in 1929 for the purpose of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. A chapter was established at Bay Path University in 2004. To qualify for induction which takes place once per year, graduate students in the master's degree programs of clinical mental health counseling and developmental psychology must have a minimum CGPA of 3.80 or better and must have completed a minimum of 18 credits of coursework within the program. Eligibility will be reviewed tri-annually (after each trimester) and students will be notified if they meet the eligibility criteria. Students must be enrolled at Bay Path University at the time of application.

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society

The University will support membership in Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing, Beta Zeta at-Large Chapter, whose mission is to promote nursing leadership and improve healthcare.

The RN to BSN Program is a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree completion program. Prior to matriculation at Bay Path University, RN to BSN students have successfully completed/graduated from an accredited nursing program at the Associate's degree or Diploma level. All

students are required to meet the same 120 credits toward the Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. RN to BSN students are required to complete a minimum of 30 credits in order to graduate from The American Women's College at Bay Path University with a BSN degree.

To be eligible for induction into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing, the Registered Nurse undergraduate student must meet Sigma Theta Tau's requirements:

- Have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours within the nursing major (courses that begin with BSN, WEL 331 Strategies for Personal and Career Growth for Nurses and WEL 441 Leadership in Practice for Nurses)
- Have completed half of the courses in the nursing major (this including courses whose course codes are other than BSN courses or WEL 331 Strategies for Personal and Career Growth for Nurses and WEL 441 Leadership in Practice for Nurses)
- Achieve academic excellence (CGPA of at least 3.0)
- Rank in the top 35% of the graduating nursing class
- Meet the expectation of academic integrity

The Registered Nurse graduate student (Master's and Doctorate) must:

- Has completed one quarter of the nursing curriculum (this includes DNP courses and courses that begin with other course codes)
- Achieve academic excellence (CGPA of at least 3.5)
- Meet the expectation of academic integrity.

Students in graduate programs who are registered nurses, legally recognized to practice in their country and have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field, will be eligible to be considered as a Nurse Leader at any point in the program.