



Graduation Processing & Policy May 2026 Candidates

The Office of the Registrar is responsible for the review, certification, and maintenance of academic records for all Lewis graduates.

Graduation—degree conferral—is the official process of degree certification that is noted on your transcript and diploma. The below information includes your graduation processing schedule and relevant University policy.

Your campus ceremonies will take place in May 2026. Our office will coordinate details and resources regarding upcoming events that include graduation, cap & gown, ceremony, and diploma.

Communications—use of your **Lewis student email** is required

Electronic communications comply with our Office of Technology policy and are directed to your **Lewis student email address**. Messages continue through Spring, so please check for emails from the Office of the Registrar.

For graduates, the diploma will be mailed through the United States Postal Service (USPS) **only to the address specified on your graduation application**. We are unable to mail the diploma to an international address. If changes are made, you must update the address in your portal AND send an email to registrar@lewisu.edu from your Lewis student email. You can choose to have your diploma mailed to the Office of the Registrar. All address changes are due by **May 22, 2025**.

Graduation Eligibility & Degree Works (DW)—check your DW; direct questions to your advisor or chair

Maintaining graduation candidacy, and degree certification, directly relate to your **DW** audit found in your *myLewis* portal under **Records and Registration – Degree Works**. Every section and requirement must show as being fulfilled, and any deficiencies will prevent degree certification. Questions and concerns should be directed to your advisor or program/college administrator. If you will not meet degree requirements this term, you may withdraw your application through registrar@lewisu.edu.

Diploma Name

Lewis University will use the name on file for the diploma name and commencement booklet. If you need to make changes to your legal name, please email registrar@lewisu.edu with the Change of Name form and submit documentation to have your name updated. If you have a preferred first name, please email registrar@lewisu.edu regarding the preferred name process. All changes should be submitted prior by **April 10, 2026**. Any request submitted after **April 10, 2025** may not be reflected in the commencement book or the diploma.

Important University Policy

•**Graduation Status in Degree Works (DW)**

◇ *'Applied—review with advisor'* shows the initial Graduation Status when you apply, and reminds you to meet with your advisor to confirm that degree requirements will be met this semester. All DW audit requirements should show as clear; any deficiencies must be resolved with your advisor or program administrator.

◇ Prior to the degree conferral date, the Office of the Registrar will assess each record, and the graduation status will be updated. The initial audits will be completed by **April 10, 2026**. All candidates must have a DW graduation status of *'Clear'* to be eligible for graduation.

➤ What is a Clear Status?

ALL requirements listed within your audit must show as fulfilled or in-progress. You are expected to meet all requirements listed in your Degree Works page by the end of the Spring 2026 semester.

- *Clear Pending Final Grades/Coursework Away*
- *Clear Pending Final Grades*
- *Clear Pending Comprehensive Exam*
- *Clear Pending Final Grades/ Flight Labs*
- *Clear Pending Final Grades/GPA*
- *Cleared for Graduation*

➤ What is a Not Cleared Status?

Missing requirements identified in your Degree Works audit—such as prior incomplete grades, missing documents, etc. **need to be resolved by April 10th** to maintain graduation candidacy. If you have a “Not Degree Ready” status you will want to contact your Advisor to assist in reviewing the outstanding requirements.

- *Missing Required Documents*
- *Not Degree Ready – GPA*
- *Not Degree Ready - Insufficient Hours*
- *Not Degree Ready – T' Grade*
- *Not Degree Ready – See Advisor*

•**Final grades—Incomplete (I) grades are NOT allowed in Spring 2026 term**

◇ Incomplete (I) grades are NOT allowed in Spring 2026 semester. Degree certification will not occur with any incomplete ‘I’ grades. ALL requirements in your Degree Works audit must be fulfilled by the end of the Spring 2026 semester.

◇ Previous semester Incomplete (I) grades not changed by April 10, 2026 will prevent graduation eligibility.

◇ If taking coursework away in your graduating semester, you must have your approved coursework away form submitted to the Office of the Registrar by **06/05/2026**. It is your responsibility to ensure Lewis University receives the official transcript from the other institution **before 06/05/2026**. Failure to meet the established deadlines may result in your degree being delayed to a future term.

◇ Final grades are due by 05/19/2025 In addition to final grades, ALL requirements in your Degree Works audit must be fulfilled by the end of the Fall semester.

•**Bachelor degree candidates—128 minimum hours, University Honors policy**

◇ After final grades are posted, your transcript must show a completion of at least 128 credit hours. If you are repeating a course in the graduating semester for which you have received prior passing credit, such as a D, you cannot count the additional hours as only the most recent is counted—credit can only be given once for the course. The full policy on Repeated Courses may be found though~ *Lewis University online Catalog 2025-2026 > General Information > Grading*.

◇ **Graduation Honors.** Bachelor degree recipients are eligible to graduate with honors if they have achieved cumulative grade point averages as follows: 3.500 - 3.749 with cum laude; 3.750 - 3.899 with magna cum laude; 3.900 - 4.000 with summa cum laude. Honors at graduation are indicated on both the student’s diploma and transcript. At the commencement ceremony, students are draped with an honor cord. Honors designations do not apply to graduate, associate, or certificate students. To qualify, a recipient must have earned a minimum of 56 hours at Lewis, not including credits earned by exam or prior learning assessment. (*Lewis University online Catalog 2025-2026 > General Information > Graduation*). An honor designation noted at the commencement ceremony may not be the same on the final and permanent record.

•**Transcript**—no changes are made to the transcript after graduation/degree certification

◇ The official graduation date is May 22, 2026 and a student’s record becomes permanent upon graduation. Nothing is added, deleted, or changed on the student’s transcript after degree certification.

•**Financial policies**—zero balance

◇ Lewis University policy requires that a student account must be clear before a diploma is issued or tickets are available for the ceremony. You may check your account balance through your myLewis portal – STUDENT ACCOUNT.

December

Ceremonies: Please review the below information carefully for the degree ceremony schedules. Candidates can view their college and level in their Degree Works. Please see example below on where candidates can find this information in their Degree Works. **Graduation candidates can only attend the ceremony related to their level and college.** Double majors will attend their priority major ceremony.

Friday, May 15, 2026

AFTERNOON DEGREE CEREMONY

College of Aviation Science and Technology 3:30pm

EVENING CEREMONY

College and Education and Social Sciences & College of Humanities Fine Arts and Communications 7:00pm

Sat May 16, 2026

MORNING CEREMONY

College of Nursing and Health Sciences 9:00am

AFTERNOON CEREMONY

College of Business 12:30pm

> Double majors will attend their priority major ceremony.

January

Final Transcript Review, Degree Certification, Diploma

A final transcript review for degree certification is conducted after May 2026 grades are recorded. This process should be completed by June 5, 2026. After certification, and for graduates with a zero balance, diplomas are USPS mailed to the address on the graduation application; typically, this is within 8-10 weeks after the conferral date of May 22, 2026. If your account clears later, you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@lewisu.edu for your diploma.

Proof of Degree

The official record of graduation is a transcript released through the Office of the Registrar. If you are confident that your degree requirements will be met by Spring 2026 conclusion, you may order a transcript in advance and select 'hold for degree'; we will release it as soon as we certify your degree and after May 22, 2026. Transcript ordering details can be found at: [Ordering Transcripts](#).

You have our very best wishes as you complete your degree!

The Office of the Registrar