

Decision to host Commencement on the West Lot

The Commencement Planning team has been made aware of concerns regarding the decision to relocate the April ceremony to the West Lot. The team appreciates that these concerns were brought to our attention so that we can share additional information about the relocation and what is being planned for the ceremony.

Why isn't the ceremony going to be on the Quad?

We explored alternatives to the Quad to address the fact that it serves as a central and daily part of every student's experience especially during the spring and summer months when its use is highest. If the quad suffers damage similar to what occurred after last summer's commencement, this would impact the entire Wentworth community, rendering the Quad unusable for day-to-day use, future events, and student activities for up to 8 weeks.

Did you explore other locations on campus?

We explored many of the options on campus including Watson Auditorium, the front lawn of Wentworth Hall, Sweeney Field, and Tansey Gymnasium. Each location was assessed with the same rigor for accessibility, functionality and—most importantly—the safety of our guests.

We seek input from our vendors with the expertise to assess and evaluate the best use of the space we have available.

Logistically, each of these locations came with challenges, either in accommodating the tent, providing enough access points in case of an emergency, or decreasing the number of guests per graduate.

Why not have the ceremony at an off-campus venue?

While holding the ceremony on campus was our primary goal based on the overwhelming preference by students and families, we investigated multiple venues as back up options. However, none were available for the date of our ceremony.

What is being planned for the tent?

The inside of the tent will look like all other ceremonies with international flags, banners, and florals. There will be temporary flooring and a red carpet for the processional. We are planning the same celebratory experience as we do for all of our graduates. Once you enter the tent and see it filled with all of the family and friends, your faculty and classmates, it will feel amazing. You will have the same kind of commencement that all other graduates experience.

Will the Quad be utilized in any other way?

At the conclusion of the ceremony, graduates and their guests will be directed to reunite in the Quad for photos and some light refreshments. We will be creating “Instagram-worthy” photo opportunities throughout the Quad.

If there are additional questions, please let us know by emailing commencement@wit.edu.

We are excited to celebrate you all and are as committed as always to bringing you a memorable experience!