Lavender Graduation

Lavender Graduation is a commencement ceremony honoring graduating LGBTQIA+ and allied students. It is a cultural celebration that acknowledges the achievements and contributions that students of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions have made at Carolina. Recipients of the LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Awards are announced during the ceremony.

This program is co-sponsored by the Program in Sexuality Studies and the Provost Committee for LGBTQ Life.

How to Participate

There is no cost to participate in or attend Lavender Graduation.
All graduating participants must register using the Lavender Graduation Registration form [1].

2021 Registration will close on Sunday, April 18th at 11:59pm.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Participants must be one of the following at UNC - Chapel Hill:

- Undergraduate student
- Graduate student
- Professional student
- Doctoral candidate

Participants must be approved to graduate in the most recent Fall semester or the current Spring semester.

**2021 Ceremony Details**

Date and Location: Sunday, May 9th, 2021, via Zoom. Registered participants will be given a link to share with their guests.

Keynote speaker TBA

**Why Lavender?**

Lavender is important to LGBTQ history. It combines the pink triangle that gay men were forced to wear and the black triangle that lesbians were forced to wear while political prisoners in Nazi Germany. LGBTQ activists took these symbols of hatred, combined them, and created a symbol and color of pride and community.

**How did Lavender Graduation start?**

Now tradition at more than 200 colleges and universities across the country, Lavender Graduation began in 1995 at the university of Michigan. Ronni Sanlo, then the Director
of the LGBT Campus Resource Center, organized the first Lavender Graduation with three graduates. She initiated Lavender Graduation after being denied access to attend her own children's graduations due to her sexual orientation and out of a desire to celebrate LGBT students. She has stated that her vision “is that Lavender Graduation will be an annual celebration at every college and university in the country and that the lives of our LGBT students will be fully honored.”

**Who can participate in Lavender Graduation at Carolina?**

Undergraduate students, Graduate students, Professional students, and Doctoral candidates who graduated in the most recent Fall semester, or are approved to graduate in the current Spring semester.

**Who can attend Lavender Graduation at Carolina?**

Lavender Graduation ceremonies are typically open to the public. Participants are encouraged to invite their friends, families and loved ones. Individuals from departments and units that co-sponsor Lavender Graduation such as the Program in Sexuality Studies or the Provost Committee for LGBTQ Life, or from departments and units that work closely with the LGBTQ Center or LGBTQIQA+ communities are also likely to attend.

**Source URL:** https://lgbtq.unc.edu/programs/community-building/lavender-graduation

**Links**