Frequently Asked Questions in Graduate Records

Q: I participated in Commencement, doesn't that mean I already graduated?
A: The Commencement Ceremony is just that, a ceremony. Participation in the Commencement Ceremony is not confirmation of successful completion of academic requirements for graduation. Graduate Records only handles academic completion. The official processing of degrees takes 4-8 weeks from the receipt of final grades.

Q: I want to participate in a ceremony other than the one I am eligible for.
A: To participate in a Commencement Ceremony other than the one you are eligible for, you will need to petition the Dean's office of your college. For Graduate students, that is the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Q: I have taken all of my classes, all that's left is my comprehensive exam/thesis/project. Can I graduate?
A: In order to graduate, *all materials necessary for graduation* – including but not limited to comprehensive exams/DPEs, thesis, projects, and state exams – must be successfully completed prior to the graduation date.

Q: My grades are already posted, why haven't I graduated yet?
A: Graduate Records must obtain proof of completion of all exit requirements. This process takes approximately 6 weeks.

Q: How do I change my graduation date?
A: First, please meet with your advisor to ensure this is the correct path for you. Once you have discussed this option with your advisor, please complete a Change of Graduation Date form and submit it to Graduate Records at grecords@neiu.edu or in D-101.

Q: How do I pay the graduation fee?
A: Please reach out to Student Payment Services to arrange for payment of the graduation fee.

Q: I am graduating from a Certificate program, am I eligible to participate in Commencement?
A: Unfortunately, no. Certificate students are not eligible to participate in the Commencement ceremony. However, they do not have to pay the graduation fee either.