

Accessibility Information for Commencement Guests

Parking, Entrances, and Tickets

There are no special tickets for those using wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Please be aware, even upon request, this office **does not reserve seating**.

The doors of the ARENA will open approximately 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours) before the start of the ceremony. Please plan to wait in line if you arrive earlier.

An accessible parking lot is located on Cedar Street, off from Elm Street. If this accessible parking lot is full, it may be best to drop off the person with an accessibility need, as well as a family member on Lake Avenue, nearest to the main entrance.

There will be additional accessible parking for those with a state issued accessible placard/license plate on either side of Chestnut Street (a one-way street). From there you may enter at the **Accessible Entrance** located on Chestnut Street, in the rear of the SNHU ARENA. For reference, once inside the arena, section 116 is closest to this entrance, followed by 123/124. The elevator to the 200 level is also near this entrance.



Visual and Hearing Access

A video screen is provided over the stage for visual access to the ceremony.

- **CART** (Communication Access Realtime Translation) will be available for viewing on the video screen.
- **American Sign Language Interpreters** will be present for the event and will be viewed on the video screen.

If you need an FM system for assistance with hearing, please plan on checking with the Arena Staff at the main entrance area. The SNHU ARENA may have FM systems to loan out during the event.

Wheelchairs and Mobility Needs

1. If a person already has a mobility device, they may use it in the SNHU ARENA.
2. Contact a company for renting a mobility device.
[Charron Medical Equipment, Nashua, NH, 1-800-660-7221](#)
[Rehabilitation Equipment Associates, Manchester NH, 603-645-5200](#)
3. Upon entering the arena, a guest can request assistance to the seating area. A SNHU ARENA staff member will transport using an SNHU ARENA wheelchair to a seat in an accessible area. The person must be able to transfer from the wheelchair to a seat without assistance from SNHU ARENA staff. SNHU ARENA staff take the wheelchair for use with other guests and if requested, can return at the end of the event to transport you or your family member to the most appropriate exit.

Seating Types

The map below shows accessible areas for wheelchair and walker platform seating with the wheelchair symbol: These areas have platforms for wheelchairs and several fixed seats for those who cannot descend several stairs.



For wheelchair platform seating, please limit the number of people to two: One with a disability and one companion. Those who cannot walk any stairs take priority for platform seating.

Seating Locations

Section 101 is farthest from the stage, but it is closest to the main entrance and within walking distance for most people. This area is mostly a large platform with a few companion chairs. Most of your family will sit in the adjacent sections (102 and 126). The entrance to section 101 is on the same level as the main entrance and will have a large black curtain across, so that fewer people will enter there. Please speak with the SNHU Arena staff in this section if you and a companion choose to sit here.

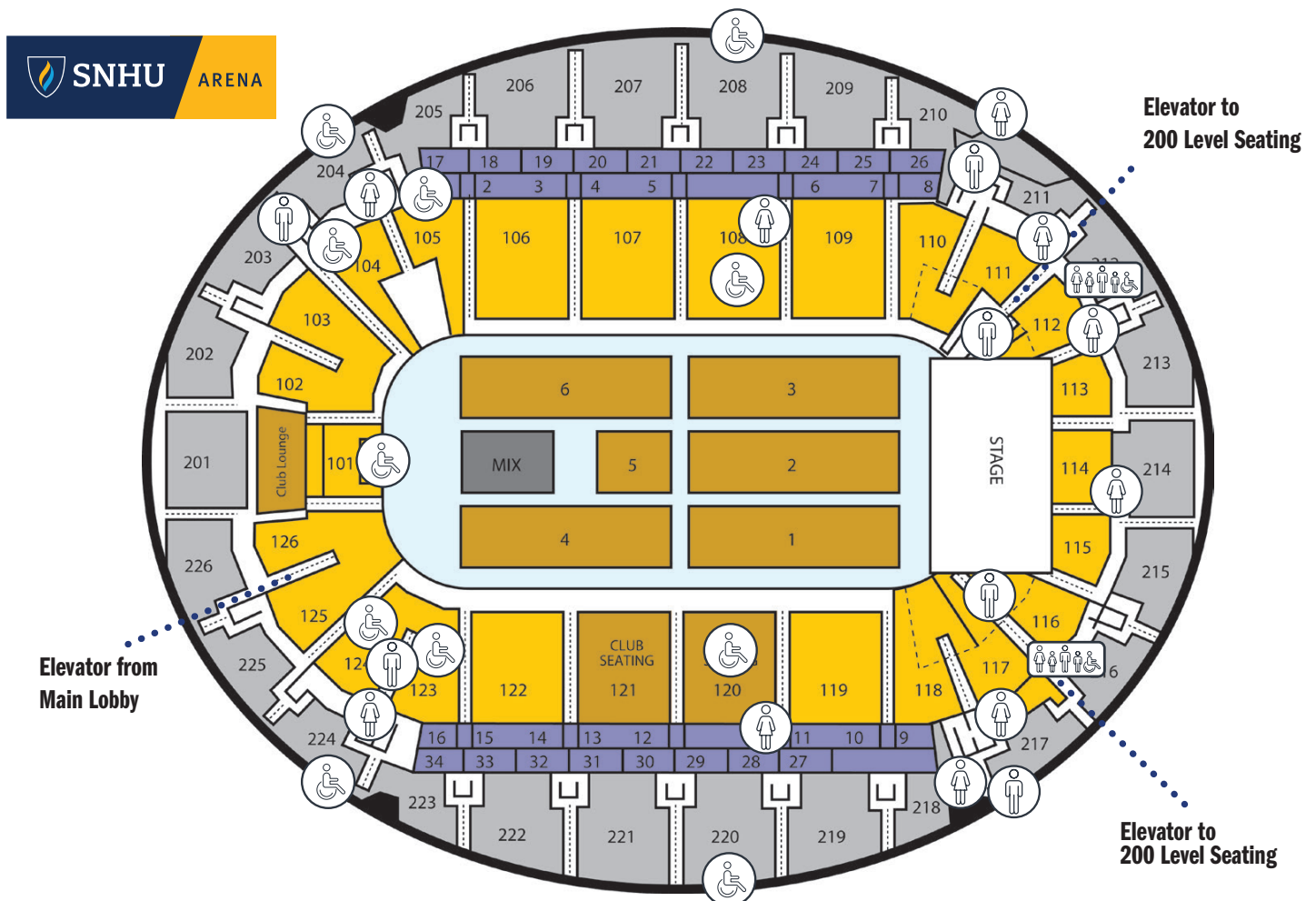
When entering the main entrance, elevator access to the 100 level seating (sections 104/105, 108, 110/111, 117/118, 123/124) is to the right and is marked on the map. There is also accessible seating on the 200 level area. An elevator with access to the 200 level is also marked on the map. Please notice this elevator is not near the elevator from the main lobby to the 100 level seating.

For larger audience members who have difficulty with the armrest spacing, there are folding chairs without armrests available on the accessible platforms in sections 104/105, 108, 110/111, 117/118, 123/124. There are also seats at the top of each section usually in Row Q that have the aisle side arm removed.

For those needing an electrical outlet to plug in their personal oxygen machine for breathing assistance, the SNHU ARENA is equipped with electrical outlets at the accessible platforms (for wheelchairs and walkers) at sections 101 and 108.

The **Section 120 Accessible Platform** is reserved for VIP ticket holders until 10 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony. SNHU ARENA staff reserve the right to seat guests in this section on a first come first serve basis.

SNHU ARENA MAP



Commencement Accessibility Services Southern New Hampshire University

[Stephanie Ames](#) - Campus Accessibility Center

[Shannon Lockwood](#) - Online Accessibility Center