

Make a graduation bouquet in school colors by choosing flowers, foliage, or wrapping that match the school palette, then arranging them into a sturdy handheld bunch. A little contrast and a secure ribbon will help the colors stand out without making the bouquet difficult to carry.

Choose your colors and flowers

Start with the school's two main colors, if it has them. Look for flowers in one color and use the second for smaller blooms, ribbon, or wrapping paper. You do not need an exact match in every petal. A few close shades can look more natural than a perfectly uniform bundle.

Roses, carnations, chrysanthemums, and alstroemeria are useful choices because they come in a range of colors. White flowers can soften a bold combination, while greenery gives the eye a place to rest. For an unusual shade such as navy, ribbon may be easier to find than flowers.

Prepare the stems

Gather clean scissors or floral shears, a rubber band, paper, and ribbon. Fill a clean container with water before you begin. Remove any leaves that would sit below the waterline, since submerged foliage can make the water dirty.

Trim the stems at an angle and place them in water while you work. Keep thorns and prickly foliage away from the handle. Graduation involves enough handshakes without adding a surprise from a rose stem.

Build a balanced bouquet

Hold a few larger flowers together in one hand, then add smaller blooms around them. Turn the bunch as you work so the colors are visible from different sides. Place a few stems slightly higher or lower to give the arrangement shape rather than lining up every flower like a class photo.

Add greenery around the outside, keeping the bouquet narrow enough to hold comfortably. Check it from the front and sides, then move any flowers that have disappeared into the middle. Secure the stems with a rubber band below the blooms and trim the ends to a similar length.

Wrap it for the celebration

Lay the bouquet diagonally on a sheet of wrapping paper, fold the paper around the stems, and tie it with ribbon. Leave the flower heads uncovered and the stem ends accessible so the bouquet can go back into water. Use the second school color in the ribbon if it is missing from the flowers.

Keep the bouquet in water and out of direct sun until it is time to leave. If it must travel without a vase, wrap the stem ends in damp paper towels and cover those with a small plastic bag. Remove the bag and return the stems to water as soon as practical.

Questions about graduation bouquets

How many flowers should I use?

Use enough to make a full bunch that is still easy to carry. Flower size matters more than a fixed number.

What if I cannot find a school color?

Use ribbon or wrapping paper in that color, and choose flowers in a complementary shade.

Can I make the bouquet ahead of time?

Yes. Arrange it the day before, keep the stems in clean water, and store it somewhere cool.

Can I add a graduation cap decoration?

Yes. Attach a small decoration to the wrapping or ribbon, making sure it does not crush the flowers.

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