



29th Annual Commencement Exercises

STAFF/FACULTY FAQ's

Commencement Safety

- The venue is an outdoor amphitheater that is covered to protect guests from the elements but open to allow for free air flow. All interior facilities are brand new and conform to the latest safety guidelines in terms of HVAC operations.
- Safety policies will be included in commencement information, and announcements will be made at the beginning and as part of the commencement ceremony.
- Masks will be required. GCC will provide venue with masks for students and anyone who shows up without one. Venue staff will address anyone who does not have a mask or are wearing their mask improperly. If necessary, any person violating policy will be referred to GCC security for removal from event.
- We will continue to use the Social Distancing guidelines as put forward by the State of Connecticut. GCC will have full use of the venue and all major rooms throughout the facility and will utilize them to conduct ceremony operations in a socially distanced manner (seating, procession line-up, information tables, etc.). Guests will be seated in pods of no greater than 4 and socially distanced from others.
- Faculty/staff, students and guests will all be using separate entrances.
- Speakers at the podium will be distanced significantly from those seated at the stage. Speakers will be able to remove their masks while at the podium.
- Signage will be placed throughout the facility as appropriate.
- Hand Sanitizer will be made available at entrances and throughout facility.
- Beverage concessions stand open until 3:45p.m., reopening at 4:20 p.m.
- Several walkthroughs will be conducted as well as commencement team meetings onsite to review all logistics and safety considerations up to the event date.
- Faculty/Staff will have the option to attend in person or virtually. Anyone who is unable to attend in either format and is required to attend by their CBA will need to send a letter to the CEO as per the CBA.



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Are Staff & Faculty required to attend?

Yes, either in person or virtually. RSVP is required by May 7th. Click [here to RSVP](#).

What time do Staff & Faculty and volunteers arrive?

Staff & Faculty arrive at 3:00 p.m. Volunteers will follow a schedule provided by Maribel Lopez and Amy DeFigueiredo. Please check your emails.

Where will Staff & Faculty Park?

Separate parking lot in rear of building. Tickets will be emailed.

Will Staff & Faculty Process?

Staff & Faculty will "process" from behind stage from the backstage area directly onto the stage to their seats.

Where will Staff & Faculty be seated?

Stage, socially distanced, "processing" through the back door of the stage.

Platform Party

Stage, socially distanced

Will safety guidelines be followed?

- Face coverings mandatory and wearing will be enforced
- Social distancing guidelines will be followed
- Hand sanitizing stations will be setup
- Masks will be provided for those that do not wear one

Will Graduates Process?

Yes

Where will graduates enter at the Amphitheater?

- Graduates arrive 2:00 p.m.
- Guests arrive between 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. staggered based on the color of the ticket they have received
- There will be no admittance after 3:45 p.m. Late comers can enter after processional at 4:20 p.m.

How many tickets will each graduate receive?

Four - Guests will be seated in pods of four. Each pod will be socially distanced from each other.

Where will graduates pickup cap and gowns and guest tickets?

All graduation information is available to students at www.gatewayct.edu/graduation.

Will beverages be available?

Yes - Concession stands will be open.