

GRADUATION READINESS MEETING

March 17, 2026

Questions & Answers

What are the correct dates for graduation for graduate students (May 8 or May 9)?

Graduate and professional students participate in the Graduate & Professional Commencement Ceremony on May 8. Undergraduate students participate in Commencement Ceremonies on May 9 based on their College or School.

- **May 8, 2026, at 9 a.m.**
 - Graduate, Professional, and Doctoral Ceremony
- **May 9, 2026, at 9 a.m.**
 - The College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities
- **May 9, 2026, at 2 p.m.**
 - The College of Health Sciences
 - The School of Business
 - The School of Education

Are graduation photos provided free of charge?

Graduation portraits are taken at no cost to the student; however, photo packages are available for purchase through Photo Specialties.

Are graduation portraits mandatory if I cannot attend due to work or academy obligations?

Graduation portraits are not mandatory. Students who cannot attend will not be penalized.

Is it acceptable to arrive late to graduation rehearsal?

We strongly encourage students to arrive on time for rehearsal; however, we understand that work obligations or extenuating circumstances may prevent this.

What if I cannot attend the graduation rehearsal?

While rehearsal is strongly recommended, it is not mandatory. Students who do not attend will still be eligible to participate in the ceremony.

What day do criminal justice students graduate?

Undergraduate criminal justice students will graduate on May 9 at 9:00 a.m. and should arrive by 7:30 a.m.

Do infants or toddlers need a ticket to attend the graduation ceremony?

Tickets are required for all children age 2 and older. Infants under the age of 2 may attend without a ticket provided they are seated on a lap.

How and when do graduate students who are not local receive tickets?

*The link and instructions will be emailed to all students to download their permit-to-march and guest tickets prior to the link going live at midnight on **May 7, 2026**. Be sure to complete this step.*

Are graduation tickets distributed at rehearsal?

*No, graduation tickets are not distributed at rehearsal. The link and instructions will be emailed to all students to download their permit-to-march and guest tickets prior to the link going live at midnight on **May 7, 2026**. Be sure to complete this step.*

Do I need to purchase regalia again if I previously earned a master's degree?

If the hood is the same, only the appropriate tassel must be purchased.

Do NCCU-employee spouses need a graduation ticket?

Yes, all guests, including NCCU employees, must have a ticket.

How many tickets does each graduate receive?

*Due to limited seating in the arena, each graduating student will receive a designated number of guest tickets. Baccalaureate degree candidates will be allotted **six (6)** tickets, while graduate and professional degree candidates will be allotted **four (4)** tickets. All seating for guests will be available on a **first-come, first-served** basis.*

Will students enroll in summer courses be allowed to graduate in May?

Students are not allowed to participate in May commencement if they have not completed all degree requirements.

What is the expected timeline for receiving cap and gown orders?

Cap and gown orders typically arrive within 2–3 weeks after ordering.

Where can students learn more about graduation photo packages?

Information about photo packages will be provided by the photography vendor via email and during portrait sessions.

What time should graduates and guests arrive for the ceremony?

Graduates should arrive 1.5 hours prior to the ceremony start time. Guests should arrive early enough to get parking and seating in the Arena before the Commencement Exercises begin.

Do graduate students have more than one ceremony?

No, graduate students have one commencement ceremony.

What color clothing should be worn under graduation gowns? Are sneakers allowed?

Graduates should wear business or business-casual attire under their gowns. Dark or neutral colors are recommended. Dark dress shoes are the preferred footwear.

Where can students view completed community service hours?

Log in to [Get Connected](#) to check your hours online.

Where should graduates and guests park for rehearsal and commencement?

Parking instructions for rehearsal and commencement will be posted on NCCU webpage.

Can diplomas be picked up prior to the ceremony?

No, diplomas are not distributed prior to the ceremony.

Is the senior survey required for graduate students?

The senior survey is only required for undergraduate students.

What is the graduation fee and where is it paid?

The \$55 graduation fee is paid through Banner Self-Service (myEOL).

Does every graduate receive cords?

No, cords are awarded based on honors, organizations, or special recognition.

Do students who attended Early College need the full 120 community service hours?

Early College students are exempt from the full 120-hour community service requirement.

Are extra graduation tickets available beyond the allotted amount?

Any unused tickets may be released closer to the ceremony.

What happens if cap and gown orders do not arrive in time for photos?

Students may borrow regalia for photos if their order has not arrived.

When is the alumni pinning ceremony?

The alumni pinning ceremony date will be announced via email once finalized.