



Congratulations, Graduates! Below is all of the information you need to make commencement a memorable experience for you and your family.

Grad Salute

Graduates are cordially invited to visit the *Grad Salute* to be held **Thursday March 25^h from 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** in the Gold Room in the Strom Thurmond Center. **This is a drop-in event.** Representatives from *Oak Hall, Balfour, and Jostens* will be available, along with key departments on campus, to assist you with the graduation process. At the event, you will have the opportunity to pick-up your cap and gown, order graduation invitations and other memorabilia, and select a Charleston Southern University ring. CSU's Career Services Office will be there with valuable information and services to share with you, along with our Office of Alumni Affairs. If you are unable to attend, you may go to the bookstore after March 25th to pick up your cap and gown, order a ring or announcements.

Graduation Luncheon

The Office of Alumni Affairs will host a graduation luncheon to honor our graduating students. The event will be held on **Friday, May 7th at 12:00 p.m.** in the Strom Thurmond Center Cafeteria. Graduation Rehearsal will follow the luncheon. RSVP and other information about the luncheon will be sent to you from Alumni Affairs.

Graduation Rehearsal

There will be a graduation rehearsal on **Friday, May 7th at 1:30 p.m.** in the Lightsey Chapel. The rehearsal will last approximately 90 minutes. Special instructions will be given regarding parking and entrance to the coliseum during rehearsal.

Graduation Reception

All graduates and family are invited to attend the Graduation Reception in their honor on **Friday, May 7th from 7:00-8:00 pm** in the Cafeteria. This is a come-and-go reception designed to give you a chance to introduce your family to the faculty one last time before you graduate. Please R.S.V.P. by May 3rd to ecroft@csuniv.edu with the number of attendees. We hope you'll come by, have some dessert, and greet the faculty.

Commencement

There will be a formal commencement ceremony at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 8th** at the North Charleston Coliseum. Participants must report by **9:00 a.m.** to the North Charleston Coliseum with caps and gowns to line up for the processional. Please do not bring any personal items; there is no secure storage there. There will be parking attendants who can direct you to the appropriate parking area.

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Attire

Female students are to wear dark slacks, dresses, or skirts with dark dress shoes (no flip-flops). Male students are to wear dark slacks, white shirt with tie, and dark dress shoes and socks. You may pick up your cap and gown at the *Grad Salute*. The \$115.00 graduation fee must be paid prior to picking up your cap and gown. The gown for those receiving the master's degree is slightly different than the one used by the undergraduates. Please be sure that you have picked up a master's-style gown. Graduate students do not receive honor cords. **Master's hoods will be issued the morning of graduation.**

Seating

Seating will be on a first-come basis. No tickets are required for this event. Please do not try to reserve large blocks of seats.

Special Accommodations

If you have a guest who will be using a wheelchair or otherwise requires special arrangements, please contact Julia Ard in the Office of the Dean of Students at 843-863-8008 or jard@csuniv.edu.

Graduation Decorum

Graduation is a University function. We want the Commencement ceremony to be a dignified conclusion to the educational program you have completed. Please inform your guests that outbursts of yelling, whistling, cheering, or applause are not acceptable during the reading of graduates' names. In fact, this type of display is very rude, diminishes the audience's ability to hear all the names, and reflects poorly on the people who do it. Also, stage displays such as dancing, jumping, or other gymnastics while receiving your diploma are not appropriate. Thanks for your help with this matter.

Professional Photographs

Individual photographs will be available for purchase from a professional photographer who will photograph each graduate on stage during the ceremony. Information will be mailed to you following the ceremony.

Professional DVDs

A commencement DVD will be available for purchase from IVS Video. The price is \$19.95 plus shipping if pre-ordered and \$25.00 plus shipping after the ceremony. You may call 843-577-0609 for more information.

May we remind you?

- Have you paid the \$115.00 graduation fee at the Business Office cashier's window?
- Have you cleared all holds at the offices of Student Accounts and Loans? Library? Housing and Security?
- After March 25th caps and gowns will be available in The University Bookstore from 7:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and from 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Fridays.
- Please direct additional questions to Darla Mills, Assistant Registrar at (843) 863-8064.