



## 2023 Commencement Newsletter

### **Commencement 2023**

Congratulations on completing your program—now it is time to stand and be recognized! Commencement will be held on the campus of Your Eastern Shore Community College on Thursday, May 11, at 5:00 p.m. under a large tent.

### **Guests**

You may invite up to 3 guests to the ceremony. All guests aged three and above need a ticket to the event. You can pick tickets up from Student Services starting April 17, Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. We will put you on a waitlist if you want more than 3 tickets. You can pick up waitlist tickets starting on May 4. For additional assistance, email Suzie Henderson at [shenderson@es.vccs.edu](mailto:shenderson@es.vccs.edu) or call (757) 789-1764.

### **Rehearsal**

Commencement Rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on campus in the Great Hall of the Workforce Building. Please plan to attend.

### **Reception**

Rehearsal Reception will be held in the Workforce atrium outside the Great Hall following rehearsal on Wednesday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. We will serve light hors-d'oeuvres and desserts to celebrate this important milestone.

### **Caps & Gowns (Regalia)**

You must wear a ceremonial cap and gown regalia to participate in commencement. You can order your cap and gown from the [ESCC Follett Bookstore](#) no later than May 3. The cost is \$42. You can ship the cap and gown to your home address or ESCC for pick up on campus in the Student Services suite. Email [studentservices@es.vccs.edu](mailto:studentservices@es.vccs.edu) or call (757)789-1720.

### **Before the Ceremony**

You must arrive at the main academic building no later than 4:00 p.m. to put on your cap and gown, receive your name card, and line up for the procession. Graduates with Certificates of Completion/Career Studies Certs/GED report to room 147. Graduates with associate degrees report to room 148.

### **Arrival Time**

If you want a professional photo taken in front of the ESCC backdrop, you should arrive by 3:00 p.m. inside the main entrance to the academic building. Graduates who choose not to have photos taken should arrive no later than 4:00 p.m. Guests should arrive by 4:30 p.m.

### **Photos**

A professional photographer will take a photo of each graduate during the ceremony. If you want a professional photo taken in front of the ESCC backdrop, you should arrive by 3:00 p.m. inside the main entrance to the academic building. Order forms with price and contact information for purchasing photos will be in the diploma cover you receive on stage. Guests may take pictures from their seats but cannot be in the aisles due to safety hazards.

### **Ceremonial Tips for Graduates**

- You should wear business attire with comfortable shoes. You will be walking on uneven ground and up steps to the stage.
- You will wear your tassel towards the front on the right side of your cap.
- You will remain standing until all graduates enter the tent.
- Be respectful of commencement speakers.
- You must get your name card from the ESCC staff in the dressing room. **Do not lose it!** You must have it ready to hand to Dr. Foxworthy on stage, who will announce your name.
- Once Dr. Foxworthy announces your name, you will cross the stage, receive your diploma from Dr. Shaeffer with your left hand and shake his hand with your right hand. You will then shake hands with ESCC Advisory Board Chair Ray Wood as you exit stage right.

### **Important Dates & Times**

- Commencement Graduate Information Zoom Meeting: Thursday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. or Friday, April 28, 10:00 a.m. Zoom links will be sent to your email and in Canvas.
- Last date to order cap and gown: Wednesday, May 3.
- Commencement rehearsal: Wednesday, May 10, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. on campus in the Great Hall in the Workforce Building.
- Commencement reception: Wednesday, May 10, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the atrium outside the Great Hall.
- Commencement ceremony: Thursday, May 11, 5:00 p.m. under a tent on campus.
- Degrees and certificates will be available for pick up a few weeks after the ceremony. You will be notified through your ESCC email address.

### **More Information**

For more information about commencement, please visit the [Commencement page on ESCC's website](#). If you have questions, please email Suzie Henderson at [shenderson@es.vccs.edu](mailto:shenderson@es.vccs.edu) or call 757-789-1764.