



Commencement Newsletter

Commencement 2024

Congratulations on completing your program—now it's time to stand and be recognized! Commencement will be held on the campus of Your Eastern Shore Community College on Wednesday, May 8, at 5:00 p.m. The event will be outdoors with no tent. The rain date is Thursday, May 9, at 5:00 p.m.

Guests

You may invite up to 3 guests to the ceremony. All guests aged 3 and above need a ticket to the event. You can pick tickets up from Student Services from April 22-April 25, Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **If there any additional tickets**, you will receive an email on Monday, April 29, and 3 additional tickets can be picked up on Tuesday, April 30. For additional assistance, email Suzie Henderson at shenderson@es.vccs.edu or call (757) 789-1764.

Rehearsal

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

Caps & Gowns (Regalia)

You must wear the ceremonial cap and gown regalia to participate in commencement. You can order your cap and gown from Follett Bookstore (<https://www.bkstr.com/esvccsstore/home>) no later than Thursday, May 2. The cost is \$45 plus tax. You can ship the cap and gown to your home address or ESCC for pick up on campus in the Student Services suite, studentservices@es.vccs.edu; (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. 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 for the photos will be in the diploma cover you receive. 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 room. Don't lose it! You must have it ready to hand to the faculty member at the podium who will announce your name.
- Once your name is announced, you will receive your diploma from Dr. Shaeffer with your left hand and shake his hand with your right hand. You will then shake hands with commencement speaker, the Honorable Jamar Walker, as you exit stage right.
- No balloons will be permitted.

Important Dates & Times

- Last date to order cap and gown: Thursday, May 2.
- Commencement rehearsal: Monday, May 6, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. on campus in the Great Hall in the Workforce Building.
- Commencement ceremony: Wednesday, May 8, 5:00 p.m.
- Rain date: Thursday, May 9, 5:00 p.m.
- Degrees and certificates will be available for pick up after the ceremony. You will receive an email letting you know when they are available.

More Information

For more information about commencement, please visit the Commencement page on ESCC's website: <https://es.vccs.edu/commencement/>. If you have questions, please email Suzie Henderson at shenderson@es.vccs.edu or Amy Shockley at ashockley@es.vccs.edu.