

## Commencement FAQs

### What is the difference between graduation and commencement?

**Graduation** – After completing all requirements for a degree or certificate, you graduate. Official graduation does not happen until all grades for your last attending semester are entered. Upon verification from the Records Office, a diploma is then mailed to graduates.

**Commencement/Walking** – The ceremony that celebrates graduation is referred to as commencement. Because final grades are not due until after the ceremony date, participation in commencement does not always mean you have graduated. If you participate in the WSCC Commencement Ceremony, you will receive a diploma holder. Your official diploma will be mailed to you upon verification of satisfied requirements.

### Am I required to attend Commencement?

Attendance at Commencement is not mandatory. We do, however, strongly encourage prospective graduates to attend. Commencement is a wonderful way for the college to recognize your achievements and allow you, family, and friends to share in your celebration.

### Is there a Commencement Ceremony rehearsal?

If you plan to participate in the Commencement Ceremony, you must attend the mandatory rehearsal.

### Do my family/friends need tickets?

Guests are not required to have tickets. Please check your email for the RSVP form where you can indicate the number of guests you expect to attend. Seating is first come, first seated for all guests.

### What time do graduates need to arrive and check in?

All students MUST arrive no later than 1 hour before the start of the ceremony. The check-in area is downstairs at the Dyson Baudo Recreation Center, located on the Marietta College campus.

### Must I wear a cap and gown (regalia)?

Yes, participation in the Commencement ceremony requires the college's cap and gown regalia. Check your email for information on reserving and picking up your regalia.

### What do I wear under my cap and gown (regalia)?

You should wear comfortable but appropriate attire, and comfortable shoes.

### Where do I get my cap and gown regalia?

Caps, gowns, and announcements can be purchased through Barnes and Noble on campus. Honor and Veteran cords will be distributed to eligible students at check-in. PTK cords will need picked up from Brad Merritt prior to the Commencement.

### How long do the Commencement Ceremonies last?

The ceremony lasts approximately an hour and a half, depending on the number of graduates who participate.

### Where can I park for Commencement?

A variety of parking options are available on the Marietta College campus. Please check your email for a map of designated parking.

### Are there special accommodations provided for guests?

All guests and/or graduates with limited mobility or special needs should arrive early to the ceremony, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs. There will be a limited number of wheelchairs available for guests to use. They are on a first come first served basis.

### Will I have my photograph taken by an official, professional photographer at the ceremony?

No. Washington State Community College will be taking photographs for the college website, however there is no guarantee that each graduate will be photographed. A designated photo area for family will be available at Commencement.

### When do I get my diploma?

You will receive your diploma via the U.S. Post mail approximately 4-6 weeks after the end of the semester. You will need to update your address with the Records Office, as this is the mailing address where your diploma will be mailed.

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If you have any questions regarding graduation or commencement, please call the Records Office at (740) 568-1904 or email [recordsoffice@wscc.edu](mailto:recordsoffice@wscc.edu).