

CLASS OF 2026 COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

MC



Congrats

Class of 2026

#MCGrad2026

Your big day is almost here, and we're excited to help you celebrate this incredible milestone. This guide is filled with everything you need—from details about robing and attire to ceremony protocols, parking, and handy tips to make your Commencement experience smooth and memorable.

This year, Montgomery College will celebrate the Class of 2026 through two Commencement ceremonies. This enhanced approach allows us to more fully honor the extraordinary achievements of every graduate, while creating a more personal and engaging experience for graduates and their guests.

Graduates will participate based on their program of study. Please visit montgomerycollege.edu/commencement to confirm your ceremony date and review the most up-to-date information. Be sure to also check your Montgomery College email and MyMC for additional updates.

**ENJOY EVERY MOMENT
OF THIS SPECIAL DAY—
YOU DESERVE IT!**



Scan for
Commencement
Information and Map



**YOUR
MC**

graduation
journey

#MCGrad2026

GETTING READY IN MARCH



CAP, GOWN, AND TASSEL

You have three options for ordering your graduation regalia (cap, gown, and tassel) for \$46.99.

Online: <https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/montgomerycollege>

In person: (1) at a Grad Fair or (2) at the MC Campus Store at Rockville

Orders must be placed **no later than May 1, 2026**. Honors students: don't forget to purchase an honors cord.

All orders will ship directly to you from Herff Jones.



GUEST TICKETS

Enjoy the honor of sharing this milestone—each graduate receives three guest tickets, with a chance for an extra ticket available in April (first come, first served).

Guest tickets are valid only for the Commencement ceremony associated with your program of study.

All tickets will be distributed online through the Tassel portal.



CELEBRATING AT THE GRAD FAIR IN APRIL

Join one of our campus Grad Fairs to kick off the Commencement season with energy and excitement.

Grad Fairs support graduates participating in both Commencement ceremonies and offer a great opportunity to prepare for your celebration, regardless of your ceremony date.

WHERE AND WHEN

Germantown Campus

Tuesday, April 14

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bioscience Education Center
(BE 151/152)

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

Wednesday, April 15

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Charlene R. Nunley Student
Services Building Bookstore
and Atrium

Rockville Campus

Thursday, April 16

1-4 p.m.

Theatre Arts Arena

AT THE GRAD FAIR, EXPLORE

Regalia and Honor Cords

Purchase regalia and honor cords.

Personalized Announcements and College Rings

Add a personal touch to your celebration.

Formal Portraits

Capture the moment with a professional portrait in your regalia by GradImages®.

Phi Theta Kappa Stole Pickup

Receive your stole if you're a PTK member.

Diploma Frames

Pre-order a special frame to proudly display your diploma.

Alumni Activation

Begin your lifelong connection by joining the MC Alumni Association.

Cap Decorating and Refreshments

Enjoy creative cap decorating with Student Life, and savor some treats provided by the Commencement Planning Committee.



FINAL TOUCHES IN MAY

REHEARSAL AND ACCESSIBILITY

Virtual Commencement Rehearsal

Tuesday, May 19 at 11 a.m.

This virtual rehearsal is for all graduates participating in either of the two Commencement ceremonies. It will help you become familiar with the flow of the day—from check-in and receiving your graduate card to seating and the ceremony process.

A link will be sent to graduates in early May and will also be available at montgomerycollege.edu/commencement.

Accessibility Support

If you or your guests need any special accommodations, simply contact accessibility@montgomerycollege.edu at least two weeks before the ceremony.



On your Big Day

May 21 or 22

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A WARM WELCOME AND SMOOTH START

ARRIVAL AND PARKING

Parking Made Easy

Graduates: you should park in the garage. Lot 1 is reserved for VIP and accessible parking. Friendly staff, county police, and crossing guards will guide you. For extra convenience, golf carts will help transport guests who need assistance.

Meeting Spot

Pick a designated spot—like your car or a special spot on campus—where you and your loved ones can regroup after the ceremony.

GETTING READY

Robing Up

Starting at 8 a.m., report to the cafeteria at Campus Center first to receive your name card, and then go to the main gym of the

Physical Education Building. Leave valuables safely with your guests or in your car, and enjoy the process as you pair up in alphabetical order and prepare to walk together.

FOR YOUR FAMILY AND GUESTS

Gathering Point

Your guests are invited to head straight to the Commencement tent, where ushers will help guide everyone. Guests should be seated by 10:20 a.m. to ensure the aisles are clear during the ceremony.

Ticket Check

All guests need a ticket (to be scanned at the entrance) to enjoy the celebration under the tent.

Celebrate

in style

#MCGrad2026

PLAN TO HAVE A GREAT TIME

What To Wear

Choose comfortable shoes and neatly pressed attire.

At the ceremony, feel free to let your personality shine by displaying honor cords and PTK stoles outside your gown.

Rain or Shine

The ceremony will go on—rain or shine—and the College will provide free rain ponchos, if needed.

What To Leave Behind

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and electronic cigarettes are not permitted at the ceremony or on the property.

A Note on Accessories

Leave strollers, large bags, umbrellas, and balloons behind to keep the focus on celebration and safety. Feel free to leave strollers at the secured area of the Commencement tent near the guest entrance.

THE CEREMONY EXPERIENCE

Processional and Presentation

- The processional begins at 10 a.m. Graduates will walk in pairs down the main aisle toward the stage.
- When it's your turn to proceed to the stage, give the card bearing your name to the reader at the stage.
- As you proceed across the stage, follow the usher's instructions to a second photo area before returning to your seat.

Recessional

- After induction into the Alumni Association, await your turn in the recessional, following the usher's signals to exit gracefully in pairs.
- Graduates will follow the platform guests, administrators, faculty, staff, and deans.

VIEWING AREAS AND LIVESTREAM



EXTRA VIEWING AREAS

If your guest list exceeds your tickets, indoor viewing areas at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Theatre Arts Building, and the Physical Education Center (small gym, room 137) provide a cool, comfortable space to join in the celebration.



LIVE BROADCAST

Relatives and friends can join the excitement via live cable broadcast on MCTV or online streaming at montgomerycollege.edu/commencement and on MC's YouTube channel.



AFTER THE CEREMONY MEMORIES THAT LAST

GRAD RECEPTION FOR ALL

Becker Family Quad

After the ceremony, meet up with friends and family on the quad for a grad reception.

JOIN THE ALUMNI FAMILY

Alumni Association Tent

At the alumni tent, you can pick up a special memento and activate your membership in the Montgomery College Alumni Association.

CAPTURE THE MOMENT

Photos by GradImages®

Enjoy a complimentary 5" x 7" photo to remember your walk across the stage, and explore additional options to capture more memories.

YOUR DIPLOMA

Receiving Your Diploma

While degrees are conferred and you are presented with your diploma cover on stage, your official diploma will be sent to you after all graduation requirements are certified during the summer. Keep an eye out for follow-up details.



Scan for Montgomery
College Alumni
Association Information



Central Services
9221 Corporate Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850

montgomerycollege.edu

NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Suburban, MD
Permit No. 97

Congratulations!

Class of 2026

Whether you cross the stage on May 21 or May 22, you are part of one graduating class whose achievements deserve to be celebrated. Congratulations, Class of 2026!

Join the conversation
#MCGrad2026

