

GRADUATE NEWS



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Ceremony Information

Graduation ceremonies for December 2021 and May 2022 graduates will take place in person Friday, May 13 in the Robert C. Keys Gymnasium on the Rockingham Community College campus. Sign up is required to participate and graduates can bring up to 4 guests (including children of any age) to join them for the ceremony.

To participate in the graduation ceremony, graduates sign up using the link in the Graduation Information email sent to their RCC email account. If you are unable to access your RCC email account, contact Technology Support Services at 336.342.4261 extension 2877 for assistance. Once you sign up, you will receive an email from SignUpGenius.com confirming your sign up. You must sign up by Monday, April 25.

Graduates pick up graduation tickets, cap, gown, and announcements from the Bookstore. There is no additional fee for your cap and gown and you can pick up your materials even if you do not participate in the ceremony. The Bookstore is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM and Friday 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. You can reach the Bookstore by telephone at 336.349.2226.

To request special assistance or accommodations for the ceremony, contact Ms. Deborah Wodhanil (336-342-4261 extension 2243) by Thursday, May 5.

Ceremony FAQ

How many guests can graduates bring?

To limit crowd size, graduates are limited to 4 guests only, including children of any age.

Are masks required?

Graduates and guests can wear masks but currently masks are not required. However, this is subject to change.

How do graduates get their diploma?

Graduates participating in the ceremony pick up their diploma following the ceremony in the Whitcomb Student Center. Valid photo ID is required to pick up your diploma. December graduates who previously picked up their diploma can still participate in the ceremony.

When do eligible students get honor cords?

Honor cords are distributed during line up. Graduates participating in the ceremony who are eligible U.S. military veterans and graduates who earn a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher in the classes required for their program, receive colored cords to wear with their cap and gown. To receive a veteran cord, you must provide a copy of your DD214 to Dr. Robert Lowdermilk, Vice President for Student Development, by May 6.

Can graduates wear honor society tassel and/or stole?

Yes. Graduates must order this paraphernalia directly from the organization; RCC does not provide these. Contact the organization advisor for information.

Not Participating in the Ceremony? Read This.

Q: Can graduates get a cap and gown if not participating in the ceremony?

Yes. Graduates can pick up these items in the Bookstore. There is no additional fee for the cap and gown; this is covered by student fees. The Bookstore is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM and Friday 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. You can reach the Bookstore by telephone at 336.349.2226.

Q: How do graduates get their diploma?

If Pick Up was selected on their graduation application, December grad diplomas are currently available for pick up. May grads can pick up their diploma at the Whitcomb Student Center Welcome Desk beginning Monday, May 16. Valid photo identification is required to pick up your diploma. May grad diplomas will be mailed Monday, May 16 to those who requested to have their diploma mailed.

QUESTIONS?

Call 336.342.4261 extension 2333

or email records@rockinghamcc.edu

GRADUATION PROTOCOL

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

1. Graduate candidates who do not meet requirements to graduate will be notified Thursday, May 12 as this information is not available until final grade reviews are complete.

CAPS, GOWNS AND CLOTHING FOR GRADUATES

1. Remove your gown from the bag immediately to help reduce the wrinkles. To iron, use a cool iron with a towel between the garment and the iron; a warm/hot iron will melt the fabric.
2. Caps, gowns, and tassels may not be decorated.
3. Honor society (e.g. PTK, SKD, etc.) tassels and stoles may be worn. Contact the organization advisor with questions on how to obtain these.
4. Wear dark color, medium-to-low heeled shoes and keep jewelry to a minimum. No t-shirts, sneakers, or athletic wear of any kind.
5. Caps are to be worn straight, pulled well down over the forehead, so that the flat top is not tilted. Tassels should remain on the **right** front of your cap until you are told to shift them at the end of the ceremony.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. No gum chewing.
2. Do not bring personal items other than your graduation cap, tassel and gown to the lineup locations; no secure location for personal items is provided. Graduation staff are not responsible for graduates' personal items.

LINE-UP AND CEREMONY DETAILS

1. Graduates report to the Advanced Technologies Building (ADT) at the designated time. Based on the first letter of your last name, report to the room listed below.
 - A – F Report to room 109
 - G – O Report to room 111
 - P – Z Report to room 100 Auditorium

You will be lined up in procession order and given your name card. You must keep your card with you until you reach the stage and hand it to the reader.

2. After reaching your seat, remain standing until after the Invocation.
3. For crossing the stage, when the marshal signals, stand up with your entire row and proceed to the stage.
4. When you reach the top ramp, hand your name card to the reader. Pause until the reader announces your name. Then proceed across the platform to receive the diploma cover in your **left** hand. Before shaking Dr. Kinlaw's hand, wipe your palm on your robe. Pause for a picture with Photo Specialties.
5. Proceed back to your seat and be seated.
6. You will be asked to stand for the Benediction. Remain standing after the Benediction.
7. You will remain standing at your seat until the stage guests have left the stage and start down the aisle. Starting with the front row, the marshals will direct you to follow the stage guests out of the gym.
8. The recession line must not stop in the lobby of the gym but must continue out the front door until the last person is out of the building.
9. Bring your photo id (e.g. RCC ID or driver license/state ID) to the Whitcomb Student Center (WSC) to pick up your diploma. All unpaid fines and balances must be paid in order to receive your diploma.
10. While at WSC, stop by the RCC Foundation table to pick up your alumni gift and sign up for Foundation communications.