



South College

2024 South College Commencement

Friday, June 14, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Knoxville Convention Center

701 Henley St

Knoxville, TN 37902

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate in the ceremony?

Knoxville based, CBE (Competency-Based Education), and Online students who completed or are scheduled to complete all of their coursework in the 2024 Academic Year (graduation dates through September 30, 2024) are eligible to participate. If you are unable to participate in this year's ceremony, you will not be able to participate in the following year's ceremony.

What time do I need to arrive on the day of the commencement ceremony?

Graduates should expect to arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. EST on Commencement Day at the Knoxville Convention Center. Signage and staff will be available to direct graduates to the graduate holding area where additional information will be provided. Graduates are encouraged to take photos with family and friends prior to the ceremony.

How do I obtain my cap and gown?

Upon RSVPing for the ceremony, you will be given a link to order your cap and gown through Jostens.

- Knoxville students will use the following link:
<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1041144/South-College/>
- Online students will use the following link:
<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/3146494/South-College-Online/>
- CBE students will receive a separate email with instructions from a CBE program representative on how to place their cap and gown order.

The deadline to order your cap and gown is **Friday, May 3, 2024**. If you miss this deadline, please contact knoxcommecement@south.edu.

The cost of the cap and gown was covered by your graduation fee and will be shipped directly to your home. Your cap and gown are yours to keep. Please note that caps and gowns usually ship within 5 weeks of the placement of your order.

Please note that you may also order announcements and diploma frames from these websites (South College diploma sizes are 8.5 X 11).

Do my guests need a ticket to enter the ceremony?

No tickets are required for family and friends to attend. Seating is on a first come, first served basis with doors opening at 9:00 a.m. to the public.

Where should I park for the ceremony?

Parking is available at a variety of locations in the downtown Knoxville area. It is recommended that all students and guests download the Parkopedia application to their smartphone prior to the of the ceremony, as this application will help those in attendance locate available spots and quickly pay for parking. To download the application, scan the QR code below or visit <https://www.parkopedia.com/>.



One of the closest parking options is the [Locust Street Garage](#) (540 Locust St SW, Knoxville, TN 37902). This garage costs \$1/hour, \$7 max/day. The Locust Street Garage also provides direct access to the Knoxville Convention Center via a skybridge. There are other general downtown Knoxville options.

Where do I need to report the day of the ceremony?

All graduates will need to report to the graduate holding area (Exhibit Hall B) on the day of the commencement ceremony. Signage and staff will be available that morning to direct all graduates to the appropriate location.

Will there be a dress rehearsal?

There will not be a dress rehearsal or practice run prior to the ceremony. Additional instructions and aids will be made available to graduates closer to the day of the ceremony. It is strongly encouraged that all graduates review these materials ahead of time so that they feel prepared for the day of the ceremony.

What do I need to bring with me to the ceremony?

You will want to ensure that you bring your cap and gown to the ceremony, along with your GradPass.

GradPasses will be sent via email closer to the date of the ceremony. It is recommended that graduates print their GradPasses prior to the ceremony so that they do not walk across the stage with their phone in their hand.

We encourage all graduates to take the time once they have received their cap and gown to try it on and steam/iron it.

Please also note that South College is committed to providing a safe environment for this celebration. It is recommended that all individuals in attendance limit the number of personal items brought into the Knoxville Convention Center and/or utilize a clear bag.

What are the expectations and etiquette at the ceremony?

Students are expected to arrive at the Knoxville Convention Center at 8:30 a.m. Upon arrival, there will be South College faculty and staff to provide you with instructions on items including check-in and other options for photography with your family, friends, and classmates.

During the ceremony please be respectful. This includes:

- Remaining quiet and seated through the conclusion of the ceremony and marching out in the recessional.
- Wearing proper attire
 - o Expect warm weather, so plan to wear something lightweight underneath your regalia.
 - o Business casual is a good rule of thumb and black is probably the best color since it will not compete with your gown.
 - o We recommend that you select comfortable footwear, as there will be lots of standing and walking.
- Do not smoke or consume any alcohol on the premises.
- Cellphone ringers must be turned off during the ceremony.
- Photography is allowed; however, no group photos, selfie sticks, or photography near the stanchion barrier. A professional photographer will take a photograph of each graduate as diplomas are awarded.
- No air horns, cow bells, megaphones, or disruptive noisemakers are allowed.
- No helium balloons are permitted.

What should I wear under my cap and gown?

Graduates should arrive in business casual attire. Although there is no dress code, the following is recommended:

- **Males**
 - o Dress slacks (black preferred but khakis are also suitable)
 - o Dress shoes

- Dress socks
- Button down shirt
- Tie
- **Females**
 - Conservative dresses
 - Skirts, blouses, and/or dress slacks
 - Flats

What is a GradPass?

A GradPass is an electronic version of the traditional stage card used to facilitate ceremony display during the commencement ceremony. We encourage graduates to print their GradPass prior to the ceremony so that it can be scanned and discarded prior to entering the stage. This will help our name readers to appropriately pronounce our graduates' names and will allow our graduates to walk across the stage without holding anything in their hands.

Is there a place to leave my personal belongings during the ceremony?

Please leave all personal belongings (purses, jackets, etc.) with a family member or friend prior to arrival, as graduates will not have the opportunity to revisit the lineup area. South College is not responsible for any lost or stolen items left unattended.

How long with the ceremony last?

The ceremony is anticipated to end by 12:00 p.m. EST. Graduates are expected to stay for the entirety of the ceremony. South College staff and faculty will dismiss all graduates in an orderly fashion at the conclusion of the ceremony.

What is the proper placement of the tassel?

Undergraduate Degrees/Certificates: For those receiving undergraduate (certificate, associate, or bachelor's degree), tassels first begin on the right side of your cap. Upon receiving your diploma, the graduation tassel will be moved to the left.

Master's & Doctoral Degrees/Certificates: For graduate degrees, different rules apply. The difference is that your tassel will begin on the left side of your cap and will remain there until the ceremony is complete. Graduate tassels are not required to be moved at all.

How do I obtain my diploma?

South College students receive their diploma directly from Parchment within 2-4 weeks after the completion of their final class. The diploma will be mailed to the address that is provided on the Application for Graduation directly from Parchment. After graduates complete their program, they are allowed 72 hours to confirm the delivery address of their diploma and will also receive a digital diploma within 48 hours of it being ordered. Graduates can track the order of their

diploma through their Parchment account at <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/252783/institution>.

How are honors levels calculated?

For students who complete courses prior to May 15, 2024, the final Grade Point Average (GPA) achieved will be used to determine honors level. For students completing courses after May 15, 2024, the GPA earned as of May 15, 2024 will be used to determine honors levels.

What are the various honors levels?

Undergraduate & Graduate Programs:

Summa Cum Laude 3.90 - 4.0 GPAPurple Cord
Magna Cum Laude 3.75 – 3.89 GPAGold Cord
Cum Laude 3.50 – 3.74 GPARed Cord

Certificate Programs:

Honors 3.50 – 3.79 GPAPurple Cord
High Honors 3.80 – 4.0 GPAGold Cord

How do I obtain my honors cords?

Honors cords will be given out at check in. If you are eligible for honors designation, it will be printed on your check in card. Honors cords are purchased by the institution for students participating in the commencement ceremony only. Cords are considered regalia and are for the sole purpose of recognizing students with academic excellence during the ceremony. They will not be sent to students who do not participate in the ceremony. Please note that although honors will be acknowledged in the program, they will not be announced on stage.

How do I obtain cords/regalia for honors societies?

Honors society cords, stoles, and other regalia are provided by the individual society, not South College. Please contact any societies you are a part of to request cords.

Can I decorate my cap for the ceremony?

Cap decorating is permitted. Use of offensive quotes or pictures (including political statements, profanity, etc.) are prohibited. Please keep in mind that decorations must be tasteful and professional. It is under the purview of the institution to deny the wearing of a cap that is deemed inappropriate.

What is the cost to participate in graduation?

Students are responsible for any costs associated with travel to the commencement ceremony. All other costs, including regalia, honors cord, and diploma covers are covered by the campus. Students are assessed a graduation fee.

If I am an online or CBE student, am I able to attend my local campus ceremony instead of the ceremony in Knoxville, TN on Friday, June 14, 2024?

Students who attended South College - Online or CBE may participate in the Knoxville Campus ceremony. If a student has an extenuating circumstance that may prohibit him/her from traveling to the 2024 ceremony in Knoxville, TN on June 14, 2024, at the Knoxville Convention Center, please contact knoxcommencement@south.edu.

What if I am a student with a disability?

Graduates requiring assistance or accommodations should indicate their request on the RSVP form. A member from the South College Commencement team will follow up to discuss your needs.

How do I obtain my Master's, Post-Graduate certificate, and/or Doctoral nursing pin?

Students graduating from the Master of Science in Nursing, Post-Graduate Certificate in Nursing, and/or Doctor of Nursing Practice programs will receive their pin at a separate pinning ceremony on Thursday, June 13, 2024 held at the Knoxville Convention Center (701 Henley St, Knoxville, TN 37902). This ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. with graduates expected to arrive a half hour before the ceremony begins.

Will there be a hooding ceremony?

A separate ceremony will be held for graduates from graduate level programs on Thursday, June 13, 2024 held at the Knoxville Convention Center (701 Henley St, Knoxville, TN 37902). This ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. with graduates expected to arrive a half hour before the ceremony begins.

How will I know where to meet my family and friends after the ceremony?

All graduates are required to stay throughout the entire ceremony and participate in the recessional. South College recommends that you establish a meeting point to reconnect with your guests after the ceremony ahead of time.

Where can I stay in Knoxville if I am traveling from out of town?

South College has booked a block of rooms at the following locations throughout Knoxville to help accommodate our graduates and their families who may be travelling from out of town. Each hotel has a link to provide you with a discounted rate. To receive the discounted rate, all reservations must be booked on or before May 12, 2024.

Hampton Inn & Suites Knoxville Papermill Dr

Address: 601 N Weisgarber Rd, Knoxville, TN 37919

Booking link: <https://group.hamptoninn.com/nf1o08>

Hilton Garden Inn Knoxville Papermill Dr

Address: 6200 Papermill Dr NW, Knoxville, TN 37919

Booking link: <https://group.hiltongardeninn.com/iy22v1>

Courtyard Marriott Knoxville West/Bearden

Address: 250 Brookview Centre Way, Knoxville, TN 37919

Booking link: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1709843886513&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

What do I do if I lose my GradPass?

South College will be distributing GradPasses multiple times as graduation day nears. We encourage graduates to print a copy of it once it has been distributed so that it can easily be accessed on the day of the ceremony. If you are unable to locate your GradPass on the day of the ceremony, there will be a help desk for you to visit upon checking in and South College staff will be able to reissue your pass to you.

What if my family and friends can't attend the ceremony but still want to watch it?

The ceremony will be streamed live via the South College YouTube channel. More information regarding the live stream will be made available the day of the ceremony. We encourage all individuals who are unable to attend in person to follow South College on social media for ease of accessing the live-stream.

What time do I need to arrive on the day of the commencement ceremony?

Graduates should expect to arrive between 8:30 a.m. on commencement day. Upon arrival, graduates will be directed to the graduate holding area where additional information will be provided. Please try to arrive early so that you have ample time to take photos with your family, friends, and peers, as you will not be permitted to return to the facility after the recessional.

When will I need to return to the lineup area after checking in?

All graduates are asked to be ready to line up at 9:00 a.m. At 9:00 a.m., graduates will be provided with directions to process to their seats. We encourage graduates to use the restrooms prior to the lineup time to minimize any delays.

What happens if I forget my cap and gown for the ceremony?

South College will have extra regalia available for those students who may forget their cap and gown. Although extra regalia may be made available, please note that there is no guarantee that we will have the appropriate size and degree program regalia available for that day. Should you forget your cap and gown, please see a staff member on the day of the ceremony.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions regarding the ceremony?

If you have questions regarding the ceremony and day of events, please reach out to the commencement support team at knoxcommencement@south.edu.