



2024 South College Commencement

Thursday, June 13, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Thomas Wolfe Auditorium

87 Haywood Street

Asheville, NC 28801

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate in the ceremony?

Students attending the Asheville campus who either completed, or are scheduled to complete, all degree requirements between December 14, 2023 and September 19, 2024, are eligible to participate.

****Please note that 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 4:30 pm EST on Commencement Day at the [Thomas Wolfe Auditorium - South College Graduation](#). Upon arrival, graduates will be directed to the check-in tables 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?

The deadline to order your cap and gown was **Thursday, May 3, 2024**. If you missed this deadline, please contact your graduation support team at ASH-Commencement@south.edu

Please note that you may also order announcements and diploma frames from the website below (South College diploma sizes are 8.5x11)

[South College Graduation Items](#)

Do my guests need a ticket to enter the ceremony?

Tickets are not required for family and friends to attend. Seating is first come, first serve, with doors opening at 5:30 pm EST.

Where should I park for the ceremony?

There is very little to no parking at the venue. For parking information around the venue, see [Thomas Wolfe Auditorium Parking Information](#)

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

All graduates will need to come through the main entrance located on Haywood Street at 4:30 p.m. on June 13, 2024, at the [Thomas Wolfe Auditorium](#). South College signage and staff will be on site to direct graduates on where to go. All guests will enter through the main entrance on Haywood Street. Guests may enter the facility at 5:30 p.m.

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

You will want to ensure you bring your cap and gown to the ceremony. We encourage you to take the time once your cap and gown has been delivered to try it on and steam it as well. **Please take note of the clear bag policy at the auditorium.** Patrons are limited to one clear plastic bag no larger than 18 inches by 18 inches by 18 inches or a small clutch bag 4.5" X6.5" For more information on approved bags, please visit the [Thomas Wolfe Auditorium FAQs](#)

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

- Dress slacks (black preferred but khakis are also suitable)
- Dress shoes
- Dress socks
- Button down shirt
- Tie

- Females

- Conservative dresses
- Skirts, blouses, and/or dress slacks
- Dress shoes

***There will be several stairs on and off the stage.

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

Please leave all personal belongings with a family member or friend prior to arrival. South College is not responsible for any lost or stolen items left unattended. Please also silence your cell phones. You will want to review the information on restricted items [here](#). Remember to take **note of the clear bag policy at the arena.**

How long will the ceremony last?

We anticipate the ceremony lasting approximately 1 Hour. Graduates are expected to stay for the entire ceremony. South College staff and faculty will dismiss all graduates in an orderly fashion.

What is the proper placement of the tassel?

Undergraduate Degrees: 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.

How do I obtain my honors cords?

Honors cords will be distributed on the Commencement Day at Check-in.

How do I obtain cords for honors societies?

Honors society cords 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 institution's purview to deny the wearing of an inappropriate cap.

What if I am a student with a disability?

Graduates requiring assistance or accommodation should email ASH-Commencement@south.edu. A member from the South College Commencement team will follow up with you to discuss your needs.

**There is a limited number of accessible seating for guests at the Auditorium.

When will I need to line up after checking in?

All graduates are asked to remain in the staging area once they arrive at the venue. There will be plenty of seating in this area. 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?

Students will need full regalia to participate in the ceremony.

What are the expectations and etiquette at the ceremony?

Students are expected to arrive at Thomas Wolfe Auditorium at 4:30 p.m. Upon arrival, there will be South College faculty and staff to provide you with instructions on checking 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. All graduates will be dismissed by South College staff.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol is prohibited.
- Silence cellphones upon arrival.
- Photography is allowed; however, no group photos or selfie sticks during the ceremony. A professional photographer will take a photograph of each graduate as diplomas are awarded and a more formal shot upon exiting the stage.
- Air horns, cow bells, megaphones, or disruptive noisemakers are prohibited.
- Balloons are prohibited within the facility.

How and where will I meet my guests after the ceremony?

Graduates will exit to the lobby area; guests can meet with graduates immediately after the ceremony and feel free to take pictures and mingle.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions about the Ceremony? Please email ASH-Commencement@south.edu for any questions.