



South College

2025 South College Hooding Ceremony

Reception to follow

Thursday, June 12, 2025

11:30 a.m.-1:00p.m.

Knoxville Convention Center

701 Henley St.

Knoxville, TN 37902

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate in this event?

Knoxville and Online students who are scheduled to complete all coursework in the 2024-2025 Academic Year (graduation dates between July 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025) from either a master's or doctoral non-nursing program are eligible to participate in this ceremony as well as CBE (Competency-Based Education) who are enrolled in their dissertation/capstone course by May 1, 2025.

What is a hooding ceremony?

A hooding ceremony is a more intimate ceremony to recognize the graduate's success in completing his/her master's or doctoral program and the transition to a scholar. Similar to a commencement ceremony, faculty and students are dressed in academic attire. During this ceremony, each graduate is introduced, and the graduate will walk on stage where his/her faculty advisor will place the hood around his/her neck.

When will the ceremony begin?

The South College 2025 Hooding Ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. EST. All graduates should arrive and check-in at 11:00 a.m. EST.

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 use the following link:
<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/3394181/South-College-CBE/>

The deadline to order your cap and gown is **Friday, May 2, 2025**. Caps and gowns cannot be guaranteed to arrive in time if orders are not placed by this deadline. If you miss this deadline, please contact knoxcommencement@south.edu.

If you are unsure as to which cap and gown option to select, please contact knoxcommencement@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).

Is this event ticketed?/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 11:00 a.m. EST to the guests.

What are the expectations and etiquette at this event?

Students are expected to arrive outside of the ballrooms at the Knoxville Convention Center 30 minutes before their ceremony start time. 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
- Wearing proper attire
 - o Your cap and gown will be worn for these events.
 - o Expect warm weather, so plan to wear something lightweight underneath your regalia.
 - o Business casual clothing is a good rule of thumb and black is 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.

- No air horns, cow bells, megaphones, or disruptive noisemakers are allowed.

Where should I park for this event?

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 parking options.

Will I need my GradPass for this ceremony?

No, your GradPass is not required for this event. It will only be used for the commencement ceremony on Friday, June 13, 2025 at the Knoxville Convention Center. Upon arrival, you will be directed to the graduate check-in table, where you will receive your speaker card along with additional information and instructions.

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

Be sure to bring your **cap, gown, and hood** to the ceremony. We also recommend trying on your regalia as soon as it arrives and steaming or ironing it in advance to ensure it looks its best on the day of the event.

Upon arrival, follow the signage and staff directions to the designated check-in area. A check-in table will be located outside the ballroom, where you will receive further instructions and guidance.

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
 - o Dress socks
 - o Button down shirt

- Tie
- **Females**
 - Conservative dresses
 - Skirts, blouses, and/or dress slacks
 - Comfortable dress shoes such as flats (*Note: there will be lots of standing and walking, making high heels an undesirable choice*)

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 a way to easily keep track of these items during these events. South College is not responsible for any lost or stolen items left unattended.

How long will this ceremony last?

This ceremony is anticipated to last approximately one and a half hours with an end time around 1:00 p.m. EST.

Is there a dress code for this event for my guests?

For this event, we are aiming for a comfortable yet polished atmosphere. We ask all in attendance to come in business casual dress attire. ***While jeans, sneakers, and athleisure wear will not be permitted***, you can opt for smart casual attire such as slacks, skirts, blouses, collared shirts, or dresses. A touch of professionalism paired with personal comfort is the perfect balance.

Please note that all graduates should wear their cap, gown, and hood for this event and should follow the guidelines listed above on what to wear under the cap and gown.

Will there be professional photography at the ceremony?

Yes, professional photography will be available at the graduation ceremony. Each graduate will have the opportunity to be photographed individually at key moments throughout the event. These photos will be made available electronically for download and purchase approximately one month after the ceremony. All students who participate in the ceremony will receive an email notification once the photographs are available. While we encourage graduates and their guests to enjoy this professional service, we also welcome family and friends to capture their own special moments during the celebration.

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 course(s). Your diploma will be mailed to the address that is provided on the Application for Graduation directly from Parchment. After graduates complete their program, they will receive an email to their South College email address prompting them to confirm the delivery address of their diploma within 72 hours. Graduates 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 16, 2025, the final Grade Point Average (GPA) achieved will be used to determine honors level. For students completing courses after May 16, 2025, the GPA earned as of May 16, 2025 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 distributed after 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 activities 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 a ceremony. It is expected that you wear your cords for this ceremony as well as the commencement ceremony on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Can I decorate my cap for the ceremony?

Since your cap and gown are yours to keep after the ceremony, we do permit them to be decorated to show off your personal style. Please keep in mind that decorations must be tasteful and professional. Any cap with inappropriate messages, images, or words will not be permitted.

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 (See the Catalog at <https://catalog.south.edu>).

What if I am a student with a disability?

Graduates requiring assistance or accommodations should email knoxcommencement@south.edu. A member from the South College Commencement team will follow up to discuss your needs.

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

Graduates should expect to arrive 30 minutes prior to the ceremony at 11:00 a.m. EST. Upon arrival, graduates will be directed to the check-in tables where additional information will be provided.

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 16, 2025.

Hampton Inn & Suites Knoxville Papermill Dr

Address: 601 N Weisgarber Rd, Knoxville, TN 37919

[Click here to book Hampton Inn & Suites](#)

Hilton Garden Inn Knoxville Papermill Dr

Address: 6200 Papermill Dr NW, Knoxville, TN 37919

[Click here to book Hilton Garden Inn](#)

Courtyard Marriott Knoxville West/Bearden

Address: 250 Brookview Centre Way, Knoxville, TN 37919

[Click Here to Book Courtyard Marriott](#)

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

The Hooding Ceremony will not be recorded or streamed live. Although your family and friends who are unable to attend will not be able to watch this ceremony, we encourage them to tune in the following day via the South College YouTube channel where a livestream of the full commencement ceremony will become available.

How can I share the photos I take during the ceremony?

To make it easier for everyone to view and enjoy the photos taken during the commencement ceremony week activities, we encourage you to use our official event hashtag:

#SouthCollegeGrad. By including this hashtag in your social media posts, you'll not only share your photos with fellow attendees but also contribute to a collective album of cherished moments.

Who should I contact if I need to update my RSVP for this event?

If you should need to update your RSVP including either whether or not you will be attending or the number of guests you anticipate on attending, please contact the South College Commencement Team at knoxcommencement@south.edu or log back into the Tassel platform at <https://south.tassel.com/login> using the personal email address (not South College email address) that was associated with their student file.

What accommodations are available for guests with disabilities at these ceremonies?

The Knoxville Convention Center is fully compliant with ADA regulations and laws. Guests with disabilities are encouraged to review the [Know Before You Go](#) page on the Knoxville Convention Center's website for detailed information on accessibility, including parking, seating, and other accommodations. If additional assistance is needed, please contact the venue directly at (865) 522-5669.

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 knoxcommencement@south.edu.