

Virtual Commencement Rehearsal

2020 Graduates ONLY

Ceremony starts at 4:00 p.m.
Graduates report at 3:00 p.m.

An Online Resource for Students that Provides Important Information about
Participating in the University's Commencement Ceremony



Introduction

Graduating Aggies, congratulations on your upcoming graduation from North Carolina A&T State University! Commencement is a special day of recognition and celebration of your many accomplishments.

The entire N.C. A&T community takes great pride in your achievements, and it is our sincere hope that you will plan to participate in the Commencement Ceremony so we can recognize your hard work and success.



About the Virtual Rehearsal

This Virtual Rehearsal has been created as a resource to ensure students have all pertinent information about the Commencement Ceremony to make their graduation day a success, including the following:

- When to arrive
- Where to go
- What to do
- What to expect from the ceremony



Important Notes

It is important to keep in mind that walking in the Commencement Ceremony is not synonymous with graduating. While the ceremony is an important representation of the completion of your academic career, the actual process of clearing a student to graduate and awarding their degree is separate.

Students who complete degree requirements during the summer session(s) are eligible to participate in the December commencement activities.

If you were not officially awarded your degree on your transcript, please contact the Office of the Registrar.



Things to Consider Ordering

- Your cap and gown
- Invitations
- A class ring

Order cap and gowns online at www.ncat.shopoakhalli.com through April 19, 2021 in order to receive the shipment in time for the ceremony.

Cap and Gown costs: \$94.98 undergraduate, \$101.98 masters, \$369.00 basic Ph.D., and \$915.00 for custom Ph.D.). Custom Ph.D. orders must be in by April 15, 2021 in order to have time for production.

Contact the Bookstore at (336) 334.7593



Commencement Regalia: Important Notes

Only traditional academic regalia, consisting of a cap, gown, and hood can be worn at Commencement.

- Your regalia should be ordered online and received prior to the ceremony.
- The University Bookstore will have caps and gowns available for in-store purchase starting Monday, May 3 – Friday, May 7, 2021 during normal operating hours.



Cap and Gown Demo

- **Baccalaureate Candidate**



- **Masters Candidate**



- **Doctoral Candidate**





Ceremony Logistics: Guests

On the day of the Commencement Ceremony, guests of candidates should:

- Ensure they have their parking pass and tickets on-hand in order to gain entrance to the campus.
- *The 2 tickets per graduate are for any person regardless of age. Tickets have assigned seats, and are in groups of 2.*
- Plan to park approximately 45-90 minutes prior to the ceremony start time to allow enough time to get from the parking lot to Truist Stadium and find seating. Parking for the disabled will be available in the main parking lot of the stadium. Placards must be visible.
- A shuttle will be provided for those needed.
- Enter the stadium via the main entrance.



WEAR
a cloth mask over
your nose and mouth.



WAIT
6 feet apart. Avoid
close contact.



WASH
your hands or
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Ceremony Logistics: Guests (continued)

- Commencement ceremonies have open seating. However, with the social distancing guidelines due to COVID, seating capacity will be strongly limited and seats will be marked to ensure compliance.
- Light concessions will be made available for purchase at the stadium.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the stadium.
- Ponchos and collapsible umbrellas measuring 40 inches or less will be permitted. Larger-sized umbrellas **will not** be permitted.

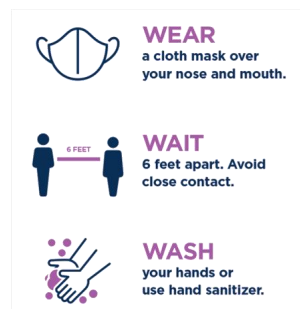




Ceremony Logistics: Candidates

On the day of the ceremony, candidates should:

- Come dressed in their robe, and be sure have to have your cap and cell phone with your QR code ready.
- Parking will be made available in parking lots on Benbow Road starting with lots on the east side of the street (Pride Hall all the way down to Benbow Road).
- A shuttle will be provided for those needed.





Ceremony Logistics: Candidates (continued)

- All candidates should enter the stadium through the Visitors Entrance located at the corner of Benbow Road and Sullivan Street.
- Candidates check in with their QR code with the Registrar's Office personnel located at the bottom of the steps.
- Candidates will find their college pole and faculty marshals by the bleachers, on the walkway beside the softball field, or near the Bryan Fitness Wellness Center.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the stadium.



Name Cards

For candidates who have their QR code downloaded to their phone, you will scan your QR code at the reader at the front of the stage, and proceed to walk across the front of the stage. As you walk across, your name will be announced and displayed on the jumbotron.

For candidates eligible to participate, who do not have their QR code downloaded to their phone, a name card will be made available on the morning of commencement by staff from the Registrar's Office located at the main entrance on the visitors side entrance of the stadium. The name card made available **will not** display your name on the jumbotron, but will you have the opportunity to have their name read by a name announcer.



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Candidates: Personal Belongings

You will not be allowed to bring purses or coats into the stadium. The Clear Bag policy will be enforced.

Please make arrangements with your guests to hold personal items and valuables during the ceremony.

Any items left in the line up area or at the field are subject to being collected and discarded.





Order of the Processional

When the ceremony begins, the order of the processional will be as follows:

- The University Mace
- The Degree Candidates
- The Platform Party



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Seating

Candidates will be seated in the order in which they process.

For the safety of everyone and to remain compliant with COVID restrictions, the seats should not be rearranged as the 6 ft. social distancing will be in place.

Candidates should remain in their seats until called to the stage for name recognition.



Safety and Security

For the safety and enjoyment of all candidates and guests, we ask that you please keep in mind the following:

- Remain seated throughout the ceremony, except when instructed to stand by the ushers or marshals.
- Cellular and other mobile devices should be set to silent mode until the conclusion of the ceremony.
- Air horns, noisemakers and other props are prohibited during the ceremony.
- Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, weapons and contraband of any type are prohibited in the Coliseum. Prohibited items will be confiscated.





The Ceremony

The ceremony is a celebration of our graduates and their many accomplishments at N.C. A&T. A variety of invited speakers will address graduates and guests, followed by the conferral of degrees.

Individual ceremonies may vary slightly but, in general, the order will be as follows:

- Processional
- Welcome and Introductions
- Greetings from the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees
- Commencement Address
- Recognition of Honor Graduates
- Presentation of Candidates (doctoral, masters, undergraduates)
- Conferring of Degrees and Tassel Shift
- Singing of the Alma Mater
- Recessional





At the Event: Commencement Ceremony Expectations

- Commencement is a ceremonious and solemn event. The university expects full cooperation from all participants, including graduates and their invited guests. *Graduates are required to stay for the entire commencement ceremony.* Disorderly or disruptive conduct *will not* be tolerated and the university reserves the right to remove disruptive individuals from the Commencement Ceremony.
- Full academic regalia are required to participate in the ceremony. Students *without* proper academic regalia *will not be allowed to participate.*
- **Women** should wear dark dresses, dark shoes (no heels), no high collars or bows at neck and no corsages or jewelry on the robe.
- **Men** should wear white shirts, dark tie, dark trousers, socks and dress shoes.



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Commencement Programs

- A printed program will be provided for the ceremony, and will later be uploaded to the website.
- Programs will be placed in each candidate chair on the field as well as provided at the entrance to the stadium for guests.
- To ensure that there are enough programs for each family, please take to one per person prior to the start of the ceremony.
- Only those students who have applied to graduate by the specified deadline will have their names printed in the program. The Office of the Registrar widely communicates the deadline by which students need to apply to have their names printed in the program multiple times throughout the semester. This communication is done via the students' NCAT email account and on the website.
- Please note: The listing of names of degree candidates in the commencement program should not be considered official evidence that all degree requirements have been satisfied. Undergraduate students receive a letter from the Office of the Registrar certifying that they have met all requirements. Graduate students will have on their Aggie Access transcript "Applied for Graduation" under Curriculum Information which confirms the graduation application is active.



Hoods

- All degree candidates will wear their hoods to the ceremony. No hooding will take place during the ceremony.
- Doctoral candidates will be hooded during the virtual hooding ceremony planned by The Graduate College prior to the ceremony.



Public Recognition / Name Announcement

When the candidates are presented for name recognition:

- Candidates will be asked to rise.
- The dean will present the candidates to the chancellor.
- The candidates will then be escorted to the front of the stage for the individual name announcement.
- The candidate will scan their QR code from their phone, or present their name card, and proceed to walk across the front of the stage before returning to their seat.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the stadium.





Walking Across the Stage

- Candidates will be called to the stage by college.
- Ushers and marshals will direct candidates to the front of the stage. Please stay alert and follow the directions being given when it is your turn to walk in front of the stage.
- Remember to bring your QR code on your phone or name card with you as you prepare for recognition. For your safety and continued flow of candidates, please refrain from dancing, stomping, stepping.
- A photographer will be strategically positioned to take your official graduation photo.
- After your photo has been taken, you will be directed back to your seat.



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Tassel Turn

At the end of the ceremony, undergraduate candidates will be directed to turn their tassel from the right to the left to symbolize the conferral of their degree pending the completion of their degree requirements.



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The Recessional

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the recessional will begin. The order of the recessional is as follows:

- Platform party exits first.
- Followed by the students.
- Students are to remain in their row until after the platform party and faculty have all recessed out of the arena. Students will exit the stadium as directed by the ushers at the appropriate time.



Please make arrangements with your guests to meet off campus following the ceremony.



Photographs

- *GradImages*® will be the official photographer during Commencement. Your proofs will be available after the ceremony. To view your proofs online, visit www.gradimages.com. Pictures may be ordered online, by phone or by mail. If you have questions please contact Customer Service at 800-261-2576, or via email at giservice@gradimages.net.
- Pre-register with *GradImages*® by visiting www.gradimages.com and clicking on the *Pre-Event Registration* at the bottom of the page. This provides *GradImages*® with the most current contact information and ensures the delivery of your graduation proofs in a timely manner. You may register your email and up to six emails of loved ones who would like to share in your accomplishment by viewing and ordering photos.



Diplomas and Diploma Covers

When applying to graduate, the online graduation application requires you to indicate a diploma mailing address. This is the address to which your official diploma and diploma cover will be mailed following the ceremony.

Diplomas and diploma covers are mailed approximately 6-8 weeks after graduation. Therefore, it is important that you provide a mailing address that reflects where you will be living two months **AFTER** graduation rather than where you are currently living.

Fees and fines, including the \$60 or \$80 (late) non-refundable graduation application processing fee, must be paid, and library books must be returned to the library. *Any delinquent accounts in the Treasurer's Office will cause the diploma to be withheld until the account is cleared.*

Diplomas show the degree and the major, not the concentration. Your transcript shows your full academic credentials.



Congratulations and Thank You

From the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University campus, congratulations on your graduation and thank you for being a part of this wonderful community! We wish you well in your future professional and personal endeavors and hope you will remember your time here fondly. Whenever possible, please come back and visit.

As a new graduate of N.C. A&T, you automatically become a member of the alumni association. Learn more about staying connected and involved with the Aggie family at www.ncatsualumni.org.



Questions



If you have additional questions, please contact CommencementQuestions@ncat.edu.