



# SOUTHERN UNION

## STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**The 2025 Commencement Ceremony is Scheduled for Friday, May 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**

### **Eligibility to Walk at the Commencement Ceremony**

To participate in the ceremony, you must have completed a degree application and been cleared by an advisor who has indicated that you meet the necessary requirements for degree candidacy. Approved candidates should have also submitted a 2025 Commencement Ceremony Participation form by the published deadline.

### **Dress Code for the Ceremony**

Generally, women wear black dresses/skirts and men wear black or navy slacks. Shoes should be comfortable. You will be standing a lot and you will be required to walk up stairs so be mindful of that when choosing your shoes for that day.

You should have already purchased your regalia from the SUSCC Bookstore. Graduates should not wear any other regalia or color other than those pre-approved and sold in the Bookstore.

It is not advised to decorate the mortar board (cap). If you choose to do so anyway, please refrain from using inappropriate language or adding items that could be viewed as disturbing, offensive, or distracting to others.

***College personnel reserve the right to deny you participation in the ceremony if the proper colors and regalia are not used, and have you remove any decorations from your mortar board.***

### **Guest Policy and Parking**

There is no limit to the number of guests a candidate can invite. However, due to the large number of graduates expected this year, it is recommended that graduates and guests arrive early so there are fewer delays. If carpooling is an option for you, it would be highly encouraged.

If you are riding with any of your guests, please be aware that they will need to wait in the arena while you will need to report to the SU Dining Hall no later than 8:30 a.m.

### **Disability Services**

Accessible seating is available for guests on a first come, first serve basis. For candidates, if you require disability-related accommodations, please contact the ADA Accommodations Coordinator on your respective campus.

### **Schedule of the Day's Events:**

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Graduates check-in at the SU Dining Hall (visit <https://www.suscc.edu/about/wadley-map>) dressed in cap and gown to receive their name cards; portrait photos taken

9:30 a.m. - Lineup begins and special welcome and instructions given

9:45 a.m. - Stage Party, Faculty and Staff, and Candidates begin march to Arena

10:00 a.m. - Ceremony begins

It is the candidates' responsibility to arrive on time. Those who are late may or may not be seated once the ceremony begins, so it is important to allow for traffic and parking issues.

Candidates should not bring personal items to the Dining Hall because there will be no place to leave or store the items. All valuables should be left in your car or with guests prior to arriving for check-in. Do not leave purses, wallets, keys, or other items unattended in the Dining Hall.

Some snacks will be available to the candidates Friday morning, but everyone is encouraged to eat breakfast before the ceremony.

### **Photo Information**

Official graduation photos will be taken in the SU Dining Hall by The Grad Team on the day of the ceremony. Graduates will receive a QR code with information on how to receive your photos after the ceremony. Guests are encouraged to take as many candid photos from their seats as they would like during the ceremony, but no one is allowed on the Arena floor to take photos.

There will be an opportunity for graduates and guests to take additional personal photos after the ceremony and the College will be posting candid shots to its Social Media platforms that can be downloaded.



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### Printed Programs

Printed Commencement programs with the candidates' names and awards will be available at the ceremony.

Candidates who missed the original deadline to participate in the ceremony may not be listed.

### Ceremony Etiquette

The Commencement Ceremony is a formal, dignified, event designed to honor you and your fellow graduates on a great accomplishment. To help preserve the decorum of the event, it is requested that graduates and their families exercise the proper level of respect you deserve.

Guests should refrain from presenting gifts to the candidates before the start of the ceremony. Any gifts for graduates, including flowers, balloons, or any other items should not be given to them before the ceremony because there will be nowhere the graduates can leave the items during the ceremony. No one will be allowed on the Arena floor to personally hand any gifts to those walking in the ceremony. Gifts should not be scheduled for delivery to the College.

Cell phones for participants and guests are to be turned off or in silent mode during the event.

Guests should express their excitement in ways that will not prevent others from hearing the speakers and enjoying the ceremony. The use of air horns and noisemakers is prohibited, and yelling and stomping is disruptive and disrespectful.

Guests should remain seated at all times as not to block the view of others, and no one should stand in the middle of the aisle for safety concerns. Signs held by participants and guests are not allowed.

### Receiving your Diploma

Students who have earned multiple awards (degrees and/or certificates) will only have the highest earned one acknowledged during the ceremony. For example: If a student has earned both an associate degree and a certificate, the associate degree will be announced at the ceremony. However, students can receive diplomas for each degree and/or certificate earned via mail..

You will not be given your actual diploma at the ceremony on May 9. You will be handed a diploma cover on the stage at the ceremony for photo purposes only. The covers belong to the College and will be collected as you exit the Arena. The College uses a service called **Parchment** to send you your actual diploma. You will receive an email on how to log in and order your diploma, so please monitor your @alabama.edu email account after commencement. Credentials will be mailed to the address in your student portal. Please take extra time to ensure accuracy of mailing addresses to prevent delays and additional shipping costs of returned credentials.

If for some reason, you do not pass any class needed to graduate, you will still be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Remember, participation in Commencement does not automatically mean you will receive a degree.

### Southern Union State Community College Alumni Association

The SUSCC Alumni Association will have a table set up in the lobby of the Arena during rehearsal for those wishing to join the organization.

# *Congratulations!*