



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### San Joaquin Delta Community College's Annual Commencement Ceremony

Stockton Arena, 248 W. Fremont Street  
Stockton, CA 95203 (209)373-1400

- 1. CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION ~ ATTENTION GRADS ~**  
**To participate (walk) in the ceremony, students must respond online by submitting their Confirmation of Participation April 27 – May 14, 2018. In order to confirm your participation, please complete the brief online questionnaire at the link provided via your Delta College email account or mailed packet.** You will not be included in the ceremony unless you notify the College that you wish to participate.
- 2. WALKING CARDS** - Graduates participating in Commencement **may pick up their "Walking Cards" in advance** at the Information Desk in the lobby of the DeRicco Student Services Building during the period of **May 16-24, 2018** (Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). Graduates who pick up their walking card in advance must bring their walking card with them on the evening of commencement. Those who have walking cards will "*fast-track*" to the air-conditioned staging area. Graduates without their cards, or those who forget their cards, will need to check-in at the Grad Tables at the arena. Staff will provide directions regarding where to line-up.

**REHEARSAL – *Wednesday, May 23, 2018* - Do Not Be Late!** Graduates are highly encouraged to be present at rehearsal so that the ceremony proceeds smoothly. Caps and gowns are not necessary at rehearsal. Please be sure to arrive at the Stockton Arena by 4:00 p.m. Cost for parking on the day of rehearsal will be **\$10 (cost increases to \$15** on day of Commencement). See [Parking Map](#) for information regarding rehearsal parking. Family and friends are not allowed at rehearsal.

- **Graduates MUST ENTER through the SOUTH DOORS Only.**

From Fremont Street at N. Van Buren/Events Center Drive, walk south past the loading dock and follow the black iron fence south PAST the door marked, "Employee Entrance", and enter through the South Doors. This entrance is for graduates only. See [Parking Map](#) for information regarding commencement parking & associated cost.

- 3. COMMENCEMENT - *Thursday, May 24, 2018* - Do Not Be Late!** Graduates must arrive in caps and gowns at the Stockton Arena by **5:00 p.m.** and ENTER through the SOUTH DOORS (the same doors used at rehearsal). Family and friends are not allowed in the graduate staging area. The ceremony begins at 6:00 p.m. and should conclude by 8:00 p.m. Graduates are expected to remain until released at the close of the ceremony at approximately 8:00 p.m. We encourage you to eat at least a light meal before arriving at the arena.
  - **Caps and Gowns** - Caps should be worn level and straight, with tassels to the right. Honors regalia should be worn by any students eligible for honors. (See information under #15.)
  - **Graduates must report in caps and gowns by 5:00 p.m.** to form in the processional line. Late students will be placed at the end of the line. You will not be returning to the graduate assembly area. Please leave all bags, purses, cell phones and other personal belongings with relatives or friends. (You do not want to carry items during the processional). We are not responsible for lost or stolen property.
  - **Interpreter Services** will be available for deaf students, faculty, and guests. Graduates who need interpreter services are encouraged to contact the Interpreter Coordinator at (209) 954-5151, ext. 6289.
  - **Mobility Assistance** – Graduates who need mobility assistance are encouraged to contact Mobility Services at (209) 954-5078. Assistance will be available for graduates at the Rehearsal and the evening of Commencement.
  - **Recessional** – **At the close of the ceremony**, the Platform Party (college dignitaries) will exit first, followed by the Faculty. Please remain standing at your seat while Faculty is recessing. Graduates will follow ushers' directions and exit out of the arena to meet up with their guests.

4. **PARKING** – Carpooling is encouraged. Street parking is free. The City of Stockton parking fee is **\$15** per vehicle in the East Fremont Street parking lot (across the street from the arena), and in the Parking Garage (adjacent to the arena). Parking lots open at 4:00 p.m. [Parking Information](#).
  5. **TICKETS are NOT REQUIRED** for guests at the Commencement ceremony. Graduates are encouraged to invite family members and friends to attend the ceremony.
  6. **GUESTS** - Doors will open promptly at 4:30 p.m. and seating is first come, first serve. Guests should be seated no later than 5:45 p.m. The ceremony begins at 6:00 p.m. and concludes by 8:00 p.m. Guests will not be able to see the graduates in advance of the ceremony. Graduates and guests should decide in advance on a place to meet outside after the ceremony.
  7. **SPECIAL SEATING/MOBILITY ASSISTANCE** is available for elderly and disabled guests. Guests should request assistance from one of the ushers as they enter the arena.
  8. **CONCESSION FOODS & BEVERAGES** will be available for purchase in the arena from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 pm. No food or beverages, regardless of container, are permitted to be brought into the arena from outside.
  9. **FLOWERS** are allowed to be brought in from outside & will also be available for purchase in the lobby. All proceeds are donated to student scholarship funds.
  10. The Stockton Arena **DOES NOT ALLOW** strollers, balloons, air horns, or pets inside the facility. Only certified service animals, wearing their service apparel, are allowed within the commencement site.
  11. **PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS** will be provided by GradImages. Individual photographs will be taken of graduates receiving their diplomas. A photo package will be offered for sale to each graduate after Commencement. Proofs can be viewed at [www.gradimages.com](http://www.gradimages.com). A link will be on Delta's website, [www.deltacollege.edu](http://www.deltacollege.edu), after graduation.
  12. **PHOTOGRAPHS** may be taken by family and friends from the seating areas only. Although video cameras will be allowed, no tripods or cords allowed.
  13. **DIPLOMAS** - Official diplomas will be mailed to graduates in the latter part of July after all eligibility requirements have been verified. At commencement, graduates will receive a *Congratulatory Scroll*.
  14. **GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS, CAPS, and GOWNS** are available at the Delta College Bookstore, beginning May 7, 2018. Bookstore hours: Monday through Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Phone (209) 954-5086.
  15. **GRADUATION HONORS LEVELS** are determined by cumulative Grade-Point-Average (GPA). GPA computation for graduation with honors & other awards uses all course work. The designation is reflected on each student's transcript and diploma. (4.00-Highest Honors, 3.70-3.99 High Honors, 3.30-3.69 Honors, 3.00-3.29 Honorable Mention).
  16. How do I know **WHAT COLOR TASSEL** to wear during the ceremony?  
If you are a Summer 2017 graduate, your cumulative Grade-Point-Average (GPA) at the end of the Summer 2017 semester determines the tassel color. If you are a Fall 2017 graduate or Spring 2018 candidate, the tassel color is determined by your cumulative GPA at the end of the Fall 2017 semester, including all AA/AS applicable courses from other colleges. Fall 2017 GPA is used as the determining criteria *even if grades for Spring 2018 are posted before the Commencement ceremony*. ***No exceptions***. If you were granted special permission to walk as a candidate, you will receive a black tassel regardless of your GPA.
- Your **GPA will be available at the Bookstore to determine your TASSEL COLOR**, as follows:
- Graduates with a grade-point-average of 3.50-4.00 receive a gold and black tassel.
  - Graduates with a grade-point-average from 3.00-3.49 receive a silver and black tassel.
  - Graduates with grade-point-averages below 3.00 receive a black tassel.