



# SOUTHERN UNION

## STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### The 2024 Commencement Ceremony is Scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 1:00 p.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 submitted a 2024 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 mortarboard (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 motor board..

#### Guest Policy and Parking

There is no limit to the number of guests a candidate can invite. However, due to the record number of graduates 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 by 11:30 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:

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Graduates check-in at the SU Dining Hall (visit <https://www.suscc.edu/about/wadley-map> for a campus map) dressed in cap and gown to receive their name cards; portrait photos taken

12:00 p.m. - Lineup begins and special welcome and instructions given

12:45 p.m. - Stage Party, Faculty and Staff, and Candidates begin march to Arena

1:00 p.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 with guests prior to arriving for check-in. Do not leave purses, wallets, keys, or other items unattended.

Food service will not be available on campus the day of Commencement, so please eat before you arrive.

#### Photo Information

Official graduation photos will be taken in the SU Dining Hall by The Grad Team on the day of the ceremony. Graduates can obtain information at <https://thegradteam.com/southern-union-community-college/> 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.

#### 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 will not be listed.



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### **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.

### **Conferral of Degrees**

Students who have earned multiple awards (degrees and/or certificates) will only have the highest earned one acknowledged during the ceremony. (ex: 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. Your actual diploma will be mailed to you 3-5 weeks later. Your printed diploma will be mailed to the address listed on your official school record.

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 for those wishing to join the organization. Guests may also elect to purchase memberships for their graduates as a gift before or after the ceremony.

***Congratulations!***