Fall 2023 Commencement Information for Prospective Graduates

Commencement Ceremony – Brownson Arena – Maverick Center 8:00am and 11:00am

Ceremonies are divided by degrees and/or majors. Online streaming of the ceremony will be at CMUMavericks.com/tv or Facebook Live.

Go to coloradomesa.edu/commencement to determine your ceremony.

Ceremony Timeline & Details for Graduates

7:15 am / 10:15 am – Hamilton Recreation Center Gym
Graduates should arrive dressed in their regalia in the Hamilton Recreation Center Gym. Have your tassel hanging on the right side of your cap. Please bring your name card (to be picked up prior to the ceremony, see below) as it will be used to announce your name as you walk across the stage.

Processional Groups
Your assigned processional group will be printed on the bottom right section of your name card. View the Commencement Processional Map and signs in the Hamilton Recreation Center Gym to find your processional area. The groups are as follows:

- Group A: Doctorate, Master’s, and Graduate Certificate students; Singers performing in the ceremony and student speaker(s); Baccalaureate students graduating with a 4.00 cumulative GPA in CMU coursework; Baccalaureate student earning Departmental Honors; and students with special needs or accommodations.
- Group B: Baccalaureate students (excluding 4.00 cumulative GPA candidates and others in Group A).
- Group C: All Associate and Certificate students.

Line up within each Processional Group
Colorado Mesa University faculty/staff will assist graduates in lining up into two single-file lines within the processional groups about 30 minutes prior to the ceremony. There is not an assigned order within the processional group. If you would like to try to sit by your friends, make sure they are in the same line either in front or behind you. When you are seated in the arena, please be aware that your group of friends may be split between two rows.

8:00 AM / 11:00 AM Ceremony Begins – Processional to Brownson Arena
Faculty will lead the processional, followed by the students. The Commencement Marshals will direct you to the graduate seating in Brownson Arena. Do not leave any vacant chairs in your row to ensure there is enough seating for all graduates. When you get to your chair, remain standing until directed to sit.

During Ceremony – Walking Across Stage and Name Announcement
The announcer will direct the Commencement Marshals to start leading graduates to the stage. The Commencement Marshal will start at the back row and work forward. Bring your name card with you and leave all other your personal items at your seat. As your row is directed to the stage, exit toward the back of the room and follow the graduation helpers around the back hallway. When you arrive at the front stage and the speaker, hand your name card to the reader. If your name is difficult to pronounce, whisper it to the reader. As your name is read, proceed to the center of the stage to accept your diploma cover from the President and shake his hand while the professional photographer takes a picture. Exit the stage on the opposite side. Pose for photographs only in designated areas. Return to your seat with the assistance of the ushers.

Special Needs
Any graduate participating in the ceremony who will need special accommodations, please contact Erin Rooks at erooks@coloradomesa.edu or 970-248-1853 prior to November 15th. Those with special needs typically sit at the front of the graduates. If you are in a wheel chair, using crutches, need an interpreter, etc., please let us know so we can plan appropriately.
Parking

Parking near the Maverick Center is limited. Please refer to the commencement parking map for additional lots and traffic flow. Parking will be available in all Colorado Mesa University parking lots free of charge. Although parking is available on surrounding streets and businesses, please utilize the free parking on campus as a note of appreciation for you and as a courtesy to our neighbors. Local businesses will be open on commencement day and parking in their lots is reserved for normal business traffic.

Caps, Gowns, Tassels, and Other Regalia

Students who missed Grad Fair should order caps/gowns/tassels by November 1st as noted on our commencement website.

Cap and Gown pickup

University Center, Maverick Store west entrance
- Wednesday, December 6th 10am - 4pm
- Thursday, December 7th 10am - 4pm

Students needing to purchase replacement caps, gowns, or tassels on commencement morning may do so in the Maverick Store sales area at the entrance of Brownson Arena. Tassels should start on the right side of the cap and remain so until after the graduates walk across the stage when they will be led to move them to the left side of the cap.

For questions related to cap, gown, stole of gratitude, announcements, etc., please contact the Colorado Mesa University Maverick Store at 970-248-1422 or https://www.themaverickstore.com/

Name Cards and Honors Cords

To be eligible for Honors Cords you must meet the following criteria:
1. Currently have a cumulative Colorado Mesa University GPA of 3.50 or higher
2. Earning a baccalaureate or associate degree
3. Finishing your requirements by the end of the Fall semester

Name Cards and Honors Cords Pickup

University Center, at a table near the Maverick Store west entrance
- Wednesday, December 6th 8:30am - 4pm
- Thursday, December 7th 10am - 2pm

Students who do not pick up their honors cords or name card during the above distribution days may do so at the Registrar's Office in Lowell Heiny Hall Dec. 8th - 14th. For students who do not live locally or cannot pick it up on the designated days, they will be available upon arrival to the ceremony on Dec. 15 outside the Hamilton Rec Center Gym.

Professional Photographs

A representative from MJ Thomas Photography will take two pictures of each graduate: one prior to walking across the stage and one as you receive your diploma cover from the President. MJ Thomas Photography will provide graduates with color proofs, which graduates can order online at mjthomasphoto.com or at 1-800-219-0199.

Receipt of Diploma

Diplomas will be mailed to each graduate within twelve weeks after the graduation date that corresponds with the semester in which all degree requirements are completed. After the Registrar's Office reviews final requirements and grades, degrees will be awarded in the computer system. This process takes eight to ten weeks. To see if your degree was awarded during that time, check your unofficial transcript through MAVzone. Once awarded, you can use your official transcript as proof of your degree.

Registrar’s Office

The Registrar's Office Staff will be available the morning of the commencement ceremony in the staging area to answer any last-minute questions. For further questions, the Registrar's Office will be open Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm and can be contacted at 970-248-1555 or stop by Lowell Heiny Hall 449.

Find the most up-to-date commencement information at coloradomesa.edu/commencement