

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY **COMMENCEMENT**

December 12 • 8 am, 11:30 am
Brownson Arena



Fall 2025 Information for Prospective Graduates

Go to coloradomesa.edu/commencement to determine your assigned ceremony.
Ceremonies are divided by degrees and/or majors.

Ceremony Timeline & Details for Graduates

7:15 am / 10:45 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. Bring your name card, which is 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: Associate and Certificate students.

7:45 am / 11:15 am 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 am / 11:30 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 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. Those with special needs typically sit at the front of the graduates. If you are using a wheelchair or crutches, need an interpreter, etc., please let us know so we can plan appropriately.

Parking

Parking near the Maverick Center is limited. Accessible parking for people with disabilities is also limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. 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 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 and still need to purchase a cap and gown can do so at the Maverick Store on or after Dec 4.

Cap and Gown pickup

University Center, Maverick Store west entrance
Thursday, December 4 10am - 4pm

Students needing to replace 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

Honors cords are given automatically to those who qualify when students pick up their name cards. Eligibility can be found in the catalog and on our commencement website.

Name Cards and Honors Cords Pickup

University Center, at a table near the Maverick Store west entrance
Wednesday, December 3 8:30am – 4:30pm
Thursday, December 4 8:30am – 4:30pm

For those unable to pick up at the above times, you have two other options:

1. Registrar's Office in Lowell Heiny Hall suite 400 Dec. 5 - 11.
2. Dec 12 prior to ceremony outside the Hamilton Rec Center Gym as you arrive to the staging area.

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. Graduate students will have a third photo after exiting the stage. 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 within eight weeks after the graduation date for 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, a process that can take up to six weeks. To verify if your degree has been awarded, check your unofficial transcript through MAVZone. Once awarded, you can use your official transcript as proof of your degree.

Registrar's Office

Staff will be available the morning of the commencement ceremony in the staging area to answer any last-minute questions. For additional inquiries, contact the office at 970-248-1555 or visit Lowell Heiny Hall 400 Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

1100 North Avenue • Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122
970.248.1555 • registrar@coloradomesa.edu

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