



Commencement Ceremony Instructions for Graduates

May 16, 2026 – Stocker Stadium – 8 am and 12 pm

There will be two ceremonies divided by degree/major.
Go to www.coloradomesa.edu/commencement to determine your ceremony.



IMPORTANT

- Arrive 45 minutes before the start of your ceremony.
- Be dressed in your regalia (cap, gown, tassel, honors cords, etc.) ready to have your photo taken.
- Bring your name card and have it in hand.
- Get your photo taken before assembling with your processional group.

Ceremony Timeline & Instructions for Graduates

7:15 am / 11:15 am – Arrival and Photos

- Enter through the main entrance at Stocker Stadium and continue past the concession stand to the north end between Stocker Stadium and Suplizio Field.
- Check in with a staff member who will guide you to your next stop, depending on your needs.
- If you have your name card, proceed to a photographer.
- If you do not have your name card, proceed to the name card table. Replacement name cards will also be available if you lost or forgot your name card.
- Get your photo taken. MJ Thomas will have 10 photographers available underneath the Suplizio Field Baseball stands as you make your way to your processional group assembly area. They will be spread between seating sections L all the way to P.
- Assemble in your Processional Group (indicated on your card) Processional groups are assigned to Suplizio Field baseball stand sections as follows:

Processional Group A:	Section M
Processional Group B:	Sections N – O (8am ceremony), N – Q (12 pm ceremony)
Processional Group C:	Sections P – Q

7:40 am / 11:40 am Line up within each Processional Group

Colorado Mesa University faculty/staff will assist graduates in lining up in two single-file lines 15-20 minutes prior to the ceremony. For the best chance of sitting next to friends, be in the same line in front of or behind your friends. As rows of seats in the Stadium fill, groups of friends may be split between two rows. All seats in a row will be filled.

8:00 am / 12 pm Ceremony Begins – Processional

Faculty will lead the processional followed by the students. The Commencement Marshals will help seat students by rows. Do not leave any open chairs to ensure there is enough seating for all graduates. Remain standing until directed to sit.

During Ceremony – Name Announcement and Crossing the Stage

After the beginning speeches, the announcer will direct the Commencement Marshals to start leading graduates to the stage. They will begin releasing graduates from the back row and working forward. Bring your name card and leave all other personal items in your seat. Stay in the same seating order while approaching the stage.

Proceed up the ramp and hand your name card to the announcer. You may whisper your name to the announcer to ensure proper pronunciation, if desired. As your name is read, proceed to the center of the stage to accept a diploma cover from the President. If able, hold onto the cover with your left hand, shake the President's hand with your right, look at the camera and smile for a photo. Exit the stage on the opposite side you entered and return to your seat with the assistance of the ushers*.

*Students graduating with their Master's or Doctorate degree will be hooded on stage. From the name announcer, proceed to your program representative, hand them your hood and face the front. Your program representative will place your hood over your head to hang around your neck. Once hooded, proceed to the President for the handshake and photo. As you exit the stage, a third professional photo will be taken of you with your hood on.

During Ceremony – Turning of the Tassel

At the end of the ceremony, baccalaureate graduates who have earned a 4.0 cumulative GPA or departmental honors will be directed by the speaker to come forward, stand in front of the stage facing their fellow graduates, and lead the turning of the tassels from the right side of the mortarboard to the left.

Parking

Please refer to the parking and traffic flow map on the commencement website. Carpooling is highly recommended. Guests and ceremony participants are strongly encouraged to park in the Lincoln Park main lot. Parking will also be available in all Colorado Mesa University parking lots free of charge in appreciation of our graduates and their supporters. Please be courteous of surrounding neighbors and businesses, whose parking lots are reserved for normal business traffic.

For those attending the 8am ceremony, please make post-ceremony arrangements to leave the parking lot by 10:30am to avoid congestion of those arriving at 11 am for the second ceremony.

Caps, Gowns, Tassels and Other Regalia

Students needing to purchase replacement caps, gowns, or tassels on commencement morning may do so at the Maverick Store sales area by the main entrance of Stocker Stadium. Graduates keep their regalia and tassels.

Additional Information

- There is only one water fountain at Stocker Stadium. You are encouraged to bring your own water/water bottle.
- The ceremony is outside, rain or shine. Please be aware of the forecasted weather and bring weather appropriate gear as needed (coat, gloves, sunscreen, rain poncho, etc.).
- There will be a hospitality basket located on the Name Card table for a limited number of emergency items such as moleskin and band-aids for blisters, hairspray, bobby pins, safety pins, feminine hygiene products, tissue, scissors, and sunscreen.

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. The Registrar's Office is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be contacted at 970-248-1555 or at Lowell Heiny Hall 400.

Registrar's Office
970.248.1555
registrar@coloradomesa.edu

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