Fall Commencement Information for Prospective Graduates

Commencement Ceremony – Brownson Arena – Maverick Center

Online streaming of the ceremony will be at CMUMavericks.com/tv or Facebook Live.

8:00 am Ceremony
Students arrive at 7:15 am in the Rec Center Gym
Business, Engineering, Computer Science, Construction Management, CMU-CU Engineering, Health Sciences, Kinesiology

10:30 am Ceremony
Students arrive at 9:45 am in the Rec Center Gym
Art & Design, Biology, Languages, Literature and Mass Communication, Liberal Arts (University and General Studies), Math and Statistics, Music, Physical and Environmental Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Teacher Education, Theatre Arts, Western Colorado Community College

COVID-19 Protocols - All attendees need bring a Photo ID. Graduates who have not uploaded or reported their COVID documentation should bring either proof of vaccination, proof of a past positive COVID-19 PCR test/antibody test dated prior to December 6, 2021, or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of event.

Ceremony Timeline & Details for Graduates

7:15 am / 9:45 am – Hamilton Recreation Center Gym
Graduates should arrive dressed in their regalia in the Hamilton Recreation Center Gym. Please bring the name card you received at cap/gown pickup, it will be used to announce your name as you walk across the stage. Replacement name cards may be picked up at the information table just outside the Hamilton Recreation Center Gymnasium. Replacement tassels and caps may be purchased at the Game Day store near the main entrance of Brownson Arena.

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; 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 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/behind you. When you are seated in the arena, please be aware that your group of friends may be split between two rows if a row fills.

8:00 AM / 10:30 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 Marshall 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 wheelchair, using crutches, need an interpreter, etc., please let us know so we can plan appropriately.

**Parking**

Parking will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis 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.

**Cap, Gown, and Tassel Replacement**

Students still needing to purchase replacement cap, gowns, or tassels on commencement morning may do so in the Maverick Store sales area at the entrance of Brownson Arena.

Graduates keep their regalia and tassels. 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 lead to move them to the left side of the cap.

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

**Honors Cords and Name Cards**

Students who have not picked-up their honors cord or name card may do so at the Registrar’s Office prior to the day of the ceremony. On the ceremony morning, visit the Registrar’s table at the entrance to the Hamilton Recreation Center Gym.

To be eligible for Honors Cords you must meet the following criteria:
1. Currently have a 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

**Professional Photographs**

A representative from MJ Thomas Photography will take two pictures of each graduate: one as you receive your diploma cover from the President, and one at the bottom of the ramp as you exit 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 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 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be contacted at 970-248-1555 or on the first floor of Lowell Heiny Hall.

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