

## TIPS FOR GRADUATES

**Graduation fee (\$80.00)** -must be paid in the Business Office prior to graduation.

**Financial Aid Exit Survey** - all graduates are required by federal law to complete the Financial Aid Exit Survey before departing. Call (803.934.3238) or visit the Financial Aid Office for more information. *You will not be allowed to pick up your cap and gown until you show proof to the Financial Aid Office that you have taken this survey.*

### COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE

- There should not be any talking or gum-chewing while standing in line for the processional nor while seated during the Commencement Ceremony.
- There should not be any waving or yelling to relatives and friends during the processional.
- Make sure all cell phones are turned off; better yet, leave them at home.
- **Males:** After marching in, please remove your cap for the *singing of the Hymn, the Scripture and Prayer, the singing of the Alma Mater, and the Benediction* (during the Commencement Ceremony). Replace your cap on your head after standing to go to the stage to receive your degree/diploma.
- **All:** The mortarboard is to be worn level (not tipped back or cocked to one side). The tassel should be worn on the *right side*. After the degrees have been conferred, then the tassel is moved to the *left side*.
- Please emphasize to your families, friends, and other guests that the baccalaureate address is a farewell sermon at the Commencement Ceremony. It is a *solemn ceremony* and should be observed as such. The *sanctity and dignity of the ceremony* must be maintained at all times, therefore, *applauding and cheering are not allowed*. The time to celebrate and to cheer is after the President confers the degrees, which takes place after the last student's name is called. **Violators will be escorted out.** So please ask your relatives and friends to be considerate and respectful of others. They will have plenty of time to celebrate after the ceremony is over.
- *The Sumter County Civic Center does not allow air horns, balloons, flowers, gifts, noise makers, packages, strollers, food or beverages inside the facility.*

### REMIND GUESTS TO ARRIVE EARLY!!!

The entrance doors at the Sumter County Civic Center will close promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will not reopen until after the processional is completed, which will be at approximately 10:30 a.m. *All guests should arrive by 9:15 a.m. and be seated by 9:45 a.m.*

### GRADUATION PICTURES

On the morning of Commencement, graduating seniors need to report no later than 8:00 a.m. However, the photographer will begin taking cap and gown pictures at 7:00 a.m. Get your pictures taken early so you won't be rushed.

**Immediately following the Class Night Program on Friday evening, the graduates and their friends and relatives are invited to the President's Dinner in Daniels Dining Hall.**