

## TIPS FOR GRADUATES

**Graduation fee (\$85.00)** - must be paid in the Business Office prior to graduation.

**Student Loan Exit Counseling** - all graduates are required by federal law to complete the Student Loan Exit Counseling survey (studentloans.gov) 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 graduate and their three guests are invited to the President's Dinner in Daniels Dining Hall.