

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 (studentaid.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, gum-chewing, or texting 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 nor while seated during the Commencement Ceremony.
- Make sure all cell phones are turned off.
- **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.