



2024 Graduate & Commencement Information

Congratulations Graduate! As a member of Orange Coast College’s 76th graduating class, it’s time to mark your academic achievements and celebrate this memorable occasion. Please review the information below regarding Commencement activities.

IMPORTANT GRADUATION EVENTS:

❖ Grad Fair	April 17 & 18, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	OCC Main Quad outside of bookstore
❖ Rehearsal & Lunch	May 23, 11:45 am - 1:45 pm	Pacific Amphitheatre, OC Fair & Event Center
❖ Commencement	May 24, 3:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Pacific Amphitheatre, OC Fair & Event Center

BEFORE COMMENCEMENT CHECKLIST

- ❑ **Prepare for Graduation:** All graduates are invited to attend the above **Graduation Events**.
- ❑ **Visit the Commencement Website:** Visit www.orangecoastcollege.edu/commencement for up-to-date event information and to order optional graduate essentials such as frames, photos, rings, and alumni gifts.
- ❑ **Invite Guests:** Share the exciting news with your family and friends. Invite them to [Commencement](#) to celebrate your special moment! Tickets are not required, but the enclosed cards include event details for guests. There is no limit to the number of guests graduates may invite.
- ❑ **Purchase Regalia:** The regalia consists of a gown, a cap with tassel, and a stole (if applicable). You can purchase your regalia directly at Grad Fair or at the OCC Bookstore. Sales will begin April 10th through May 24th at noon.
 - Bring your **“Regalia Purchase Card”** when ordering regalia. Extra cards are available in Watson Hall 1st Floor.
 - Purchase your regalia early. Sizes of regalia become limited closer to the day of event.
 - Contact your program office for instructions on acquiring regalia if you are in one of the following programs:

EOPS (714) 432-5817		Guardian Scholars (714) 432-6835
Student Equity (714) 432-6847		Veterans (714) 432-0202 ext. 26188
- ❑ **Plan Your Attire (Dress for the important occasion):**
 - The gown should fall midway between the knee and ankle. The cap is worn flat on the head with the tassels on the right side. The color of your tassel corresponds to the degree folder you will receive on stage, so it is important that you **wear only the tassel given to you by the bookstore**.
 - Under the gown, graduates can wear a dress, skirt or dress pants, neatly pressed dress shirt, and a pair of comfortable dress shoes. High heels and platforms are not recommended as you will be walking on stairs.



REHEARSAL - THURSDAY, MAY 23, PACIFIC AMPHITHEATRE

- ❖ 11:45 am – 12:15 pm Rehearsal Check-in (Lot F)
- ❖ 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm Free Lunch
- ❖ 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm Rehearsal & Presentation

**Attendance at rehearsal is highly encouraged, but is not required for you to participate in the Commencement ceremony.*

COMMENCEMENT - FRIDAY, MAY 24, PACIFIC AMPHITHEATRE

- ❖ 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm Graduate check-in (Lot F), photos with other grads
- ❖ 4:45 pm – 5:15 pm Graduate line up
- ❖ 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Commencement Ceremony
- ❖ 7:30 pm – 8:00 pm Refreshment and photos with guests

**Most graduates leave around 8:00-8:30 pm. Plan accordingly if you are celebrating with your guests after the event.*

EVENT LOCATION

Pacific Amphitheatre, OC Fair and Event Center, 100 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Information subject to change. For more information contact the Graduation Office at (714) 714-7689 or occgraduation@occ.cccd.edu or visit the Commencement Website www.orangecoastcollege.edu/commencement

PARKING & GRAD DROP OFF

- **Free Graduate Parking/Drop-off (Lot E):** Enter **Student Gate (#4)** on Arlington and Fairview
- **Free Guest Parking (Lot B/C):** Enter **Gate #2** at Fair and Vanguard.

CHECK-IN (LOT F)

- **Check-in:** Graduates **MUST** arrive **BEFORE 4:15 pm**. Proceed to the check-in booth near Lot F and pick up your name card.
Please do not be late – this is your night to shine!
- **Bag Storage:** You will want to have your hands free during the ceremony and while on stage. Only bring your keys, phone, and essentials. You are encouraged to leave other items in your vehicle or at the Bag Storage Booth near check-in.
- **Line-up:** After check-in, line up behind the colored flags in lot F. Choose any line and wait to receive a colored wristband designating your seating placement. Graduates will proceed in their lines to the staging area of the Pacific Amphitheatre when it is time to enter. **Do not change lines after receiving your wristband.**



CEREMONY

Please demonstrate proper ceremony etiquette during Commencement. Graduates and guests are expected to silence their phones and remain in their seats for the duration of the ceremony.

- **Processional:** You will enter the Pacific Amphitheatre into your assigned row. Please remain in your assigned row throughout the entire ceremony.
- **Ceremony:** The ceremony will include an address by the college president, various speakers, and the presentation of graduates.
- **Receiving your degree folder:** You will be prompted to enter the stage to accept a degree or certificate folder. Your actual diploma and/or certificate will be mailed to you after the college has verified that you have met all graduation requirements. Please have your gown zipped closed before entering the stage.
- **Photography:** Your photograph will be taken by professional photographers twice, first behind the stage and then onstage after receiving your degree folder. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE SELFIES ONSTAGE - this lengthens the ceremony.
- **Closing (Recessional):** After all graduates have been presented, you will be instructed to “Move your Tassel” from the right side to the left. At the completion of the ceremony, graduates will exit the Amphitheatre by following faculty into the Reception area.

GRADUATES & GUESTS RECEPTION:

- Immediately following the ceremony, you can arrange to meet your guests and favorite professors for refreshments at the reception area in Lot D.
- Take lots of photos and tag **#COASTGRAD2024** to your various social media accounts!

ACCESSIBILITY/ ACCOMMODATIONS

- **Students:** To request accommodations, please email occarc@ccd.edu at least 2-weeks prior to the event.
- **Guests:** If your guest requires physical assistance or accommodations in seating, please ask them to arrive at least 45 minutes before the ceremony start time and explain their request at the guest check-in booth. We will make every effort to assist them.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!

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