

## Graduate Check-In

All graduates participating in the event must check in. Check-in will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the north end of the stadium just behind the end zone. Look for the tents positioned in this area. As you approach the tents, you will see signs with letters of the alphabet representing the first letter of your last name. You will line up behind the correct sign to receive your name card. If you are a master's or doctoral graduate, someone will be on hand to assist you with your hood.

- Check-In Arrival Time: It is highly recommended that you do *not* delay your arrival. It will take time to check in over 500 graduates. You are likely to experience less time waiting in line the earlier you arrive. The absolute latest graduates may arrive and enter the check-in area is 5:45 pm. Please plan your arrival so that you have time to park and walk to the stadium.
  - *Honors Ceremony Participants:* A shuttle bus will be available to transport Honors students participating in the 4:30 p.m. ceremony from the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center to Koi Ishto Stadium, ensuring timely arrival for check-in. Return shuttle service will also be provided to the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center parking lots for any students needing a ride back.
- After Check-In: Graduates will be free to move about the stadium grounds as they wish until the event announcer asks that they approach the field to be seated. You will be directed to a location at the edge of the field marked by two large orange flags. From that spot, you will walk onto the field and be seated under the direction of the event ushers.

## Other Important Event Information

- Decorative Caps: Graduates are welcome to decorate their caps. However, please be mindful that other graduates seated behind you would also like to see the event, so please do not decorate your cap in such a manner as to add height and block the view of those behind you.
- Diplomas & Final Transcripts: During the event you will be handed a diploma cover by the President. Inside the cover will be a notification listing the dates when you can expect these documents to be made available.
- Duration of Event : ECU cannot predict exactly how long the event will last. It is recommended that graduates and their guests plan for the event to last at least a couple of hours. It is expected that if you are going to participate in the event, that after receiving your diploma cover, you will return to your seat for the remainder of the ceremony.
- Footwear: The football field is AstroTurf, which means it has a slight give when you press on it. If you wear high heels, you do so at your own risk.

- Graduate Seating: The master's and doctoral graduates will be seated together. All bachelor's graduates will be seated behind them. If you want to sit next to someone, you should walk onto the field with them. You may still be separated. The event ushers will not be able to negotiate seating, so please do not ask that they do so. When you approach your seat, you may sit down. During the event, you will be told when to stand.
  - *Graduates in Need of Accessibility Seating*: If you have not already, please email Melissa Price (mjprice@ecok.edu) so that ECU can make appropriate arrangements.
  
- Guest Seating: Guests will be seated on the home side of the stadium (west side). Accessible seating will be available at the lower level. If needed, the opposite side of the stadium (east side) will be open for overflow seating. Guests will not be permitted to sit on the east side unless it is open for this purpose.
- Photography: ECU photographers will be positioned in front of the event stage to capture a photo of each graduate receiving their diploma cover from President Godwin. These photos will be available free of charge at <https://ecutigerpics.pixieset.com/>. Please allow 3–5 working days for the images to be uploaded. For the safety and flow of the ceremony, guests are not permitted to enter the field to take photos. Unauthorized individuals on the field will be asked to return to the stands. Guests are welcome to take photos from the stands and stadium entryways.
- Purchasing Caps & Gowns: Graduate caps and gowns, as well as ECU academic achievement stoles, can be purchased from the ECU bookstore. For information concerning other cords/stoles, please contact your campus representative for the relevant Honors society/organization.
  
- Live Stream: The event will be live streamed. For the link and other information, please visit ECU's [Graduation & Commencement Information page](#).
  
- Weather Delays: In the event of inclement weather, please monitor the ECU homepage for updates. A series of backup ceremonies have been planned for Saturday, May 16 in the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center. Additional information about these events will be made available as needed.