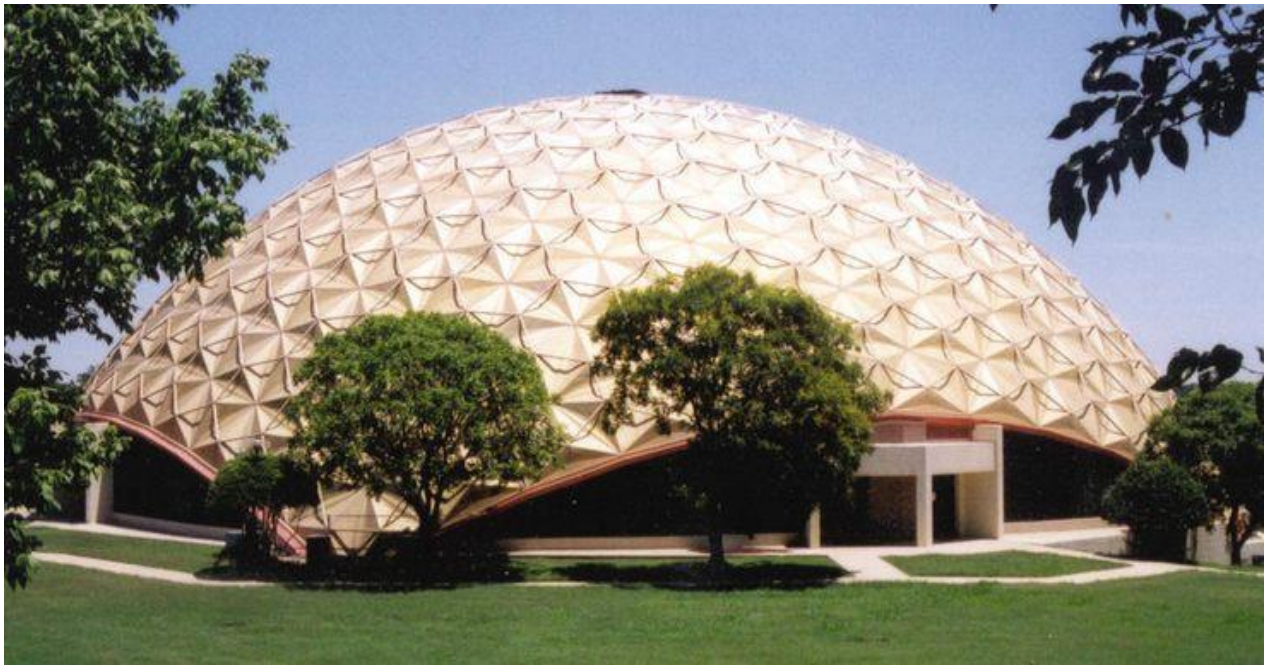
EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

Candidate's Guide for Commencement



If you have any questions after reviewing this guide please contact the Records Office.
Administration Building, Room 111
1100 E 14th St PMB J-8
Ada, OK 74820
580-559-5236
580-559-5432 fax
registrar@ecok.edu

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Need to Know for Bachelor's Candidates

Where to be: Report to the Taff Cafeteria at 8:30 am if you are participating in the 10:00 am ceremony. Report to the Taff Cafeteria at 12:30 pm if you are participating in the 2:00 pm ceremony. In case of heavy rain, you will be notified by student email account to meet in Kerr Activities Center instead. For directions to the Taff Cafeteria, see page 6

Accommodations: Candidates who need special accommodations for the ceremony because of a physical condition should contact the Records Office as soon as possible.

Get Approved: Spring candidates who apply for graduation after April 6, 2026 may not have their name listed in the commencement program.

Summer candidates who apply for graduation after April 6, 2026 may not have their name listed in the May commencement program. However, their name will be listed in the December event program.

Caution: Do not bring personal items with you. You will not be allowed to carry any items during the ceremony that do not fit inside your pocket, including cameras or purses. This is because you will not have the same seat the entire ceremony so items should not be left in/by/under your original seat.

Cap and Gown: You may pick up your cap and gown at the ECU Bookstore. Graduates are encouraged to contact the ECU Bookstore for availability.

Need to Know for Master's Candidates

Where to be: Report to the Taff Cafeteria at 12:30 pm for the 2:00 pm ceremony. In case of heavy rain, you will be notified by student email account to meet in Room 202 Kerr Activities Center instead. For directions to the Taff Cafeteria, see page 6

Accommodations: Candidates who need special accommodations for the ceremony because of a physical condition should contact the Records Office and the School of Graduate Studies as soon as possible.

Get Approved: Spring candidates who apply for graduation after April 6, 2026 may not have their name listed in the commencement program.

Summer candidates who apply for graduation after April 6, 2026 may not have their name listed in the May commencement program. However, their name will be listed in the December event program.

Caution: Do not bring personal items with you. You will not be allowed to carry any items during the ceremony that do not fit inside your pocket, including cameras or purses. This is because you will not have the same seat the entire ceremony so items should not be left in/by/under your original seat.

Remember: Master's candidates will receive their degrees as a group prior to the bachelor's candidates, please be prepared to participate in the entire ceremony. Candidates should not leave until the commencement exercises are completed in their entirety.

Cap, Gown, and Hood: You may pick up your cap, gown and masters hood from the ECU Bookstore. Graduates are encouraged to contact the ECU Bookstore for availability. We will help you with attaching your hood in the cafeteria if you would like. Graduation announcements may also be purchased at the ECU Bookstore.

Honors Cords: Organizational sashes are allowed. Honor cords are not issued to master's candidates for academic achievement due to the higher expectation of a minimum grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Commencement Times by Major

SPRING – Saturday, May 16, 2026

Commencement Ceremonies are approx.

10:00 am

Bachelor's candidates majoring in:

Accounting
Art
Biology
Business Administration
Cartography
Chemistry
Computer Science
English
Environmental Health Science
Family & Consumer Science
History
Human Development, Hospitality and Food Science
Interdisciplinary Studies
Kinesiology
Legal Studies
Mass Communications
Math
Music
Native American Studies
Physics
Political Science
Sociology
Theatre (Communication & Performance Studies)

1.5hrs

2:00 pm

All Master's candidates

AND

Bachelor's candidates majoring in:

Criminal Justice
Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education
Human Services Counseling
Nursing
Psychology
Social Work
Special Education

Commencement Information & Map:

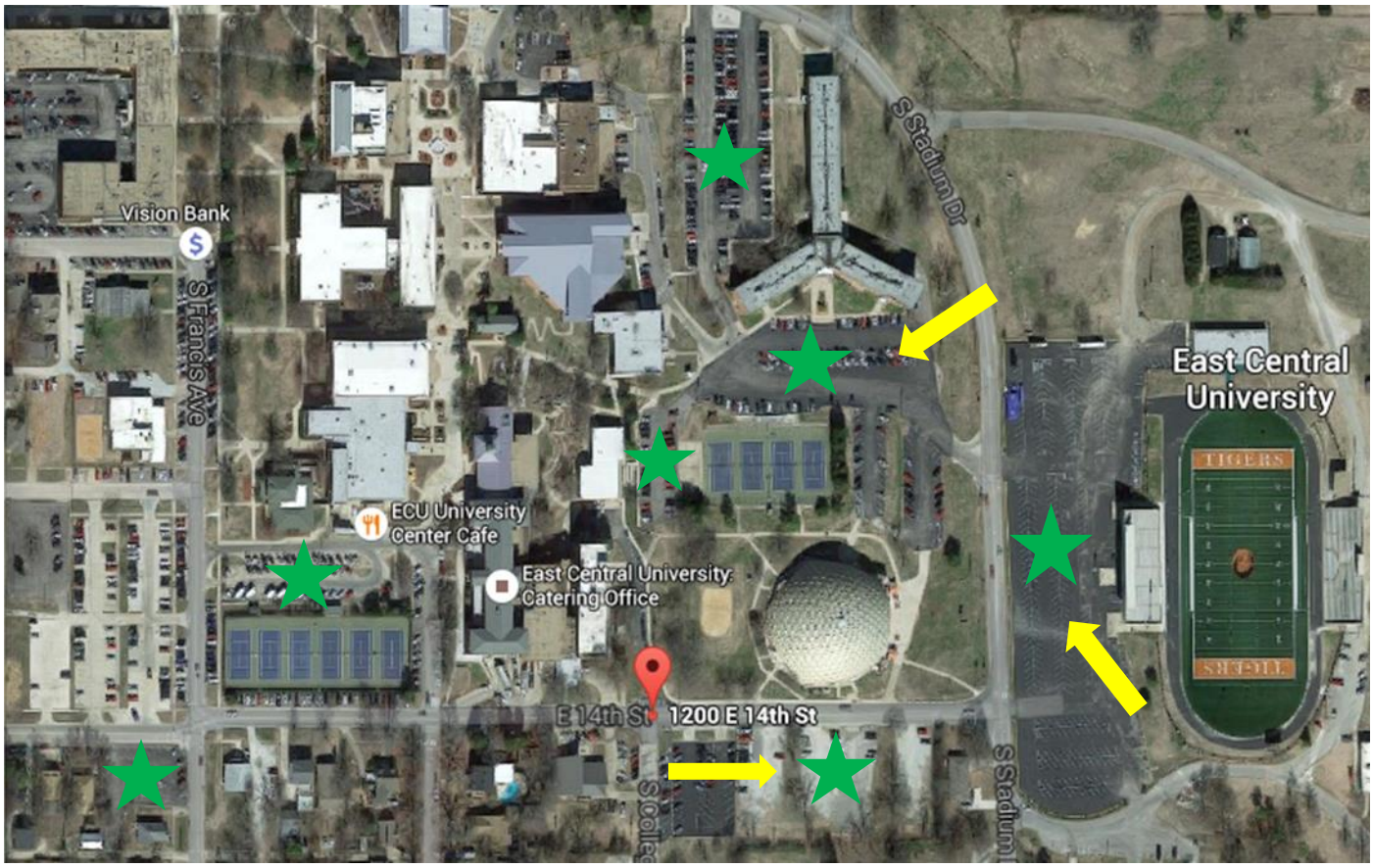
Honors students and undergraduate students graduating with "Academic Achievement" (3.50-3.79 GPA) or "High Academic Achievement" (3.80-3.99 GPA) are recognized as a group during the ceremony. Students graduating with "Highest Academic Achievement" (4.0 GPA) are recognized individually.

Before the graduation ceremonies take place, graduates will meet in the Taff Cafeteria, which is designated with a YELLOW star on the map below. Entrances are shown with GREEN arrows. The circle drive is shown by a Blue arrow and is available to those who would like to be dropped off there to enter the cafeteria. Commencement will take place in the Kerr Activities Center which will take place in the building designated with the ORANGE star.



Parking Map:

Parking on the day of commencement will be available in all areas marked with a GREEN star. The YELLOW arrows indicate parking areas that are recommended for convenience.



Honors Ceremony

The Honors Graduate Recognition Ceremony will be held at 8:00 am on graduation morning, in the Ataloa Theater, located in Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center.

Hosted by faculty sponsors of campus honor societies, the ceremony recognizes students who are members of an academic honor society or have completed the University Honors Program.

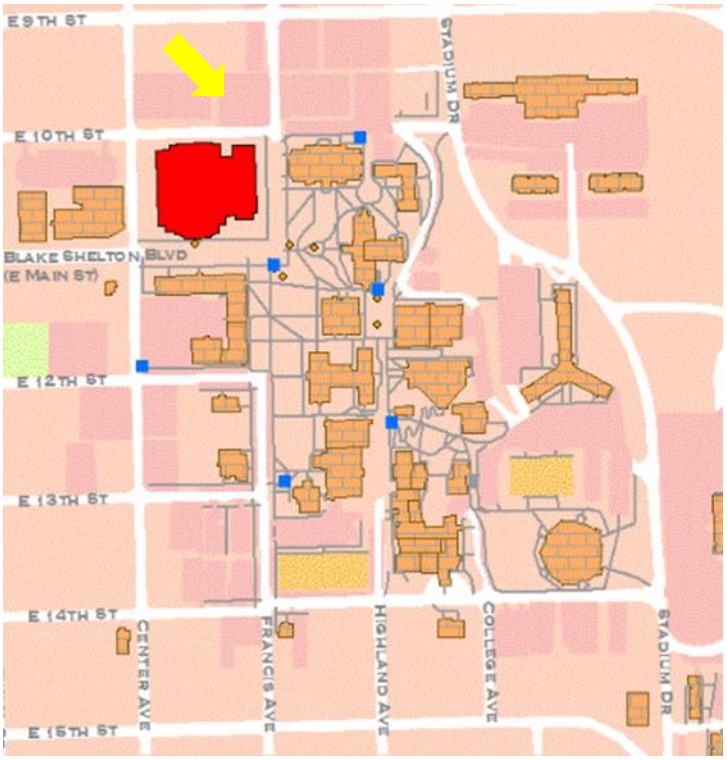
Students should arrive dressed in their caps and gowns by 7:45 am. Sponsors from the academic honor societies and the director of the University Honors Program will formally award academic regalia, such as honor cords, medallions, or stoles to each student as he or she is called to the stage. Family members are welcome to attend.

The ceremony will conclude by 9:15 am so that students may report for the university commencement ceremony. Students should consult with their individual honor society to ensure they are included in the ceremony and their graduation regalia have been ordered.

For more information about this ceremony, please contact your honor society sponsor; Honors Program director, Dr. Steve Benton, at (580) 559-5877 or sbenton@ecok.edu; or Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jeffrey Gibson.

Honors Ceremony Map:

The Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center is highlighted in RED on the map. Parking is indicated in pink. The YELLOW arrow indicates public parking areas with easy access to the Fine Arts Center.



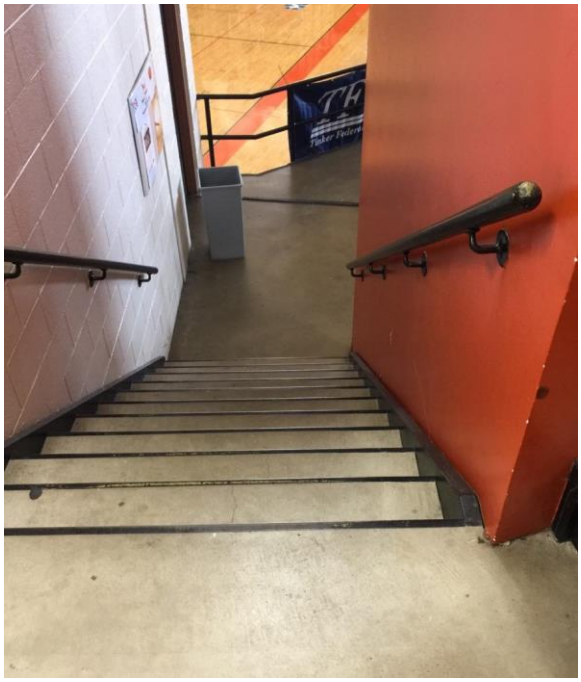
Graduation Attire:

- We encourage you to wear comfortable, yet professional, dress attire under your gown rather than casual clothing to ensure that our graduates represent themselves and ECU with the utmost respectability.

- Heels are not recommended as candidates do proceed down the 14th Street hill and three flights of indoor stairs. See pictures below if unfamiliar with 14th Street and the stairs inside Kerr Activities Center.

- Candidates <u>are allowed</u> to add lettering to their caps, but they <u>are not allowed</u> decorations that add height to the cap (e.g., flowers, large bows, etc.).





Etiquette for Commencement:

To promote a respectful, comfortable, and enjoyable experience for graduates and their guests, all attendees need to observe the following guidelines.

1. Put your cell phone on vibrate or silent during the ceremony.

2. Do not leave until the entire ceremony has ended.

3. Keep cheering respectful to allow the families and guests of other graduates to hear their graduates' names when they are read.

Tips you will **WANT** to remember:

- When you cross the stage you will be handed a diploma cover – it will not contain your diploma.
- All candidates will wear their tassels on the left side for the photographs in the Taff cafeteria.
- Bachelors need to wear their tassels on the right side during the ceremony – you will be told when to move it to the left during the ceremony. Masters, your tassel will stay on the left.
- You absolutely must have a partner during the processional that you walk beside, but it may not be the same person that you walk down the hill beside.
- Candidates on the south side when facing the stage will proceed across the stage first, and the candidates on the north side when facing the stage will proceed across the stage last.
- When receiving your diploma, reach for the diploma cover with your left hand and shake hands with your right hand. This will ensure that a clear picture can be taken of the diploma cover and minimize confusion. We want you to have the best picture possible of this moment.
- If you wish to sit next to someone, they need to be directly in front or behind you in the same line; however, it's impossible to calculate for row splits.
- As a new graduate, you have been gifted a free year of membership to the ECU Alumni Association. Please visit www.ecok.edu/alumni/update to update your contact information and activate your membership! The ECU Alumni Association will be giving out alumni pins in the cafeteria.

Graduation Photography:



A professional photographer from Genesee Photo will be at the cafeteria to take photographs of each candidate standing between the American Flag and the State Flag. A second photo will be taken of each candidate as you walk across the stage and receive your diploma cover from President Godwin. Proofs will be mailed to you at the address listed on your graduation application along with information about purchasing photo packages.

Genessee Photo Systems
Marianne Bulard
1015 West 4th Street
Stillwater, OK 74074
Phone: (405) 624-1002 or (800) 345-7427
Fax: (405) 624-9228
marianne@geneseephoto.com

Genesee Photo Systems - 1.800.345.7427
www.geneseephoto.com

Scan QR code to pre-register for Graduation Images

School of Business Photos

East Central University's Stonecipher School of Business (SSB) celebrates our student's academic accomplishments by encouraging all fall and spring graduates to participate in our SSB graduation photo. On Saturday morning we meet inside the Chickasaw Business and Conference Center (CBCC). The photograph takes place immediately following the Honors Ceremony that is held at 8:00 a.m. inside the Ataloa Theater. We usually meet in the SSB lobby around 9:00 a.m. and take the pictures around 9:10 a.m. The graduation photos will soon be placed on the media boards inside the building lobby of the CBCC.

The following are SSB majors:

BS - Accounting
BS - Business Administration (all concentrations)

MiM - Management
MSA - Accounting

Please contact Dr. Michael Scott (580) 559-5649 or mscott@ecok.edu for more information.

Social Media:

ECU welcomes your use of social media before and after commencement, and encourages participation in your favorite social networks as an excellent way to share your pride in your accomplishment, as well as for graduates and their families and friends alike to express congratulations to the graduating class, to share their ECU school pride, and to remark on the inspirational words of the commencement speakers.



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