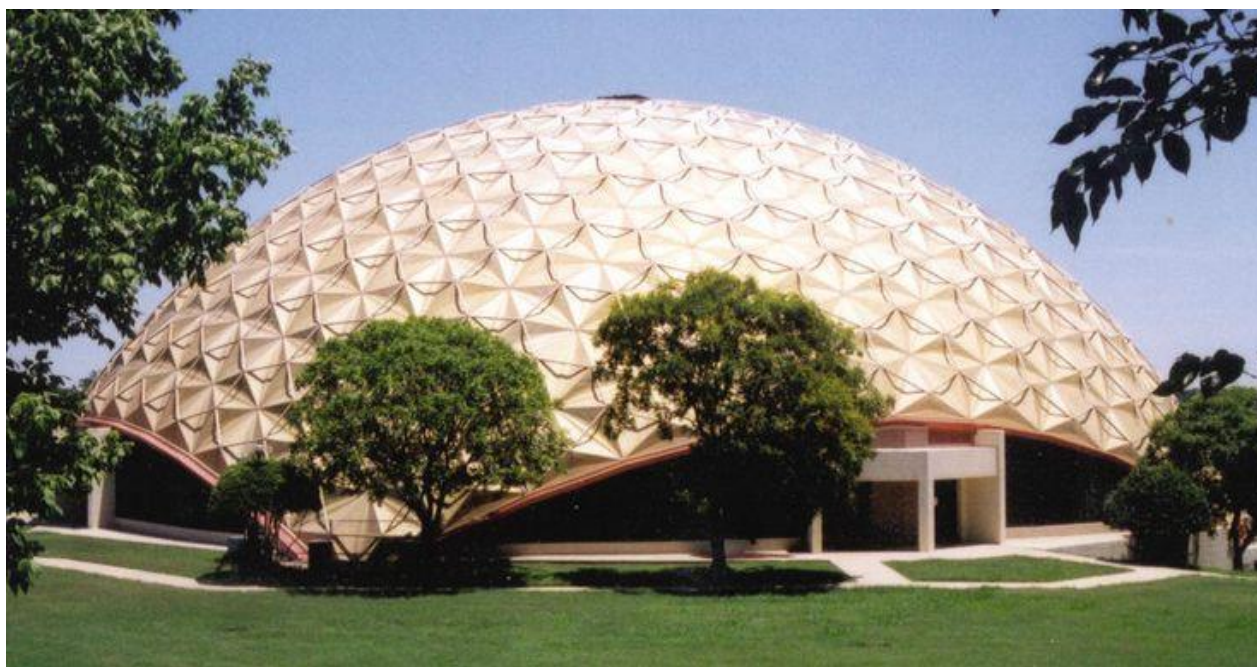


EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

Candidate's Guide for Commencement Fall 2026



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 ECU Cafeteria at 8:30 A.M. *For directions to the cafeteria, see Page 6.*

In case of heavy rain or snow, you will be notified via your student email account to meet in Kerr Activities Center instead.

Accommodations: Persons who need special accommodations for the ceremony because of a physical condition should contact the Records Office (registrar@ecok.edu) as soon as possible.

Get Approved: Fall candidates who applied for graduation after November 6, 2026 may not have their name listed in the commencement 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: The ECU Bookstore typically has caps and gowns available at the end of October. Bachelor's candidates should contact the bookstore for further information. Graduation announcements may also be purchased at the ECU Bookstore.

Honors Cords: Organizational sashes are allowed. Bachelor's candidates are responsible for obtaining the sashes from the organization.



Need to Know for Master's Candidates

Where to be: Report to the south end of the ECU Cafeteria at 8:30 A.M. *For directions to the cafeteria, see Page 6.*

In case of heavy rain or snow, you will be notified by student email account to meet in Room 202 Kerr Activities Center instead.

Accommodations: Persons who need special accommodations for the ceremony because of a physical condition should contact the Records Office (registrar@ecok.edu) as soon as possible.

Get Approved: Fall candidates approved for graduation by the Graduate Office after November 6, 2026 may not have their name listed in the commencement 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: The ECU Bookstore typically has caps, gowns and master's hoods available at the end of October. Master's candidates should contact the bookstore for further information. Someone will be available to assist you with attaching the hood in the cafeteria. Graduation announcements may also be purchased at the ECU Bookstore.

Honors Cords: Organizational sashes are allowed. Master's candidates are responsible for obtaining the sashes from the organization. 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 Time

FALL – Saturday, December 12, 2026

The commencement ceremony will be approx. 1.5hrs

All candidates for graduation will participate in the same ceremony at 10:00 a.m.



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.

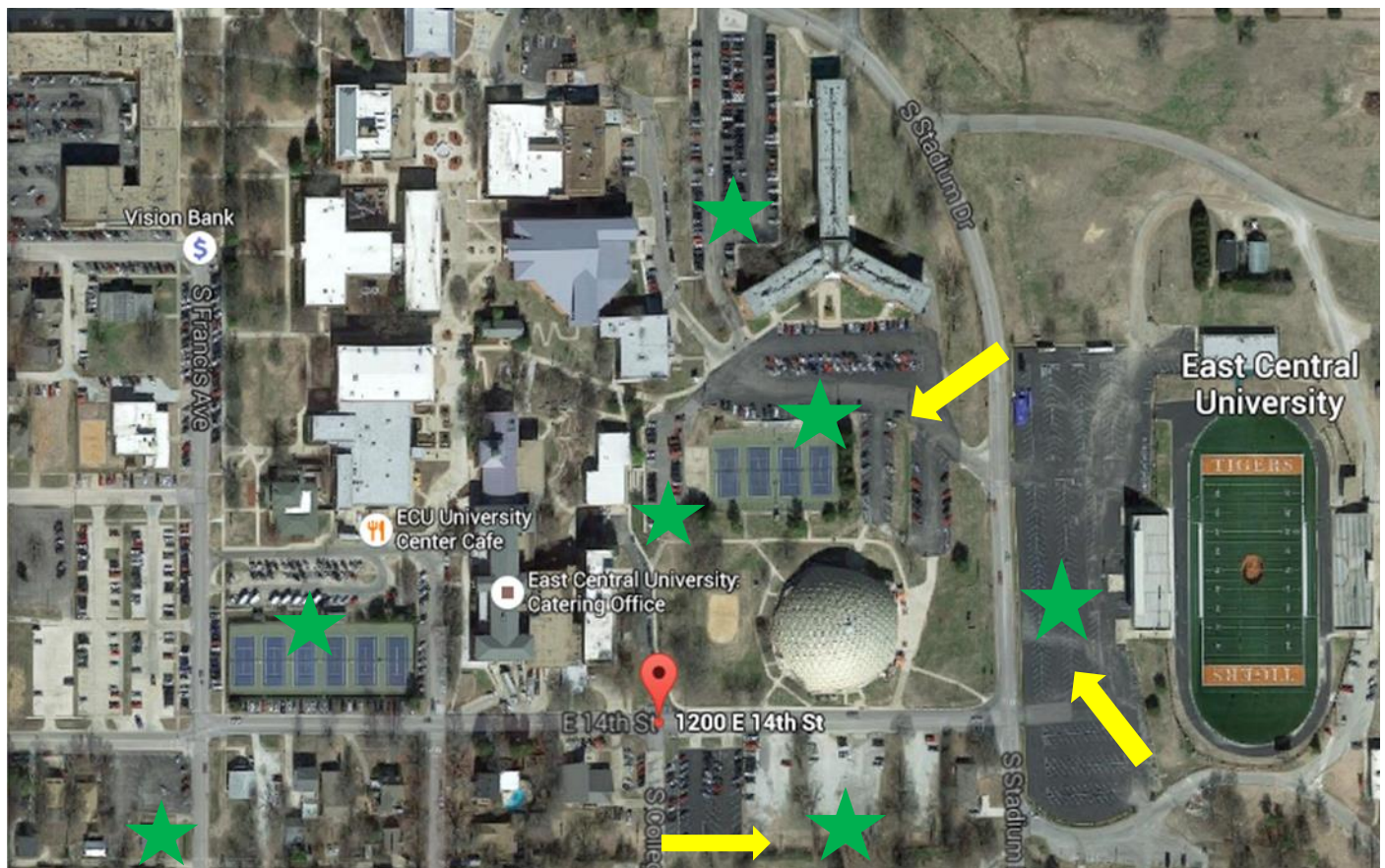
Before the graduation ceremonies take place, graduates will meet in the Taff Cafeteria, which is designated with a **YELLOW** star on the map below. Entrances are shown with **GREEN** arrows. The circle drive is shown by a **Blue** arrow and is available to those who would like to be dropped off there 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 a.m. on graduation morning, in the Ataloea 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.

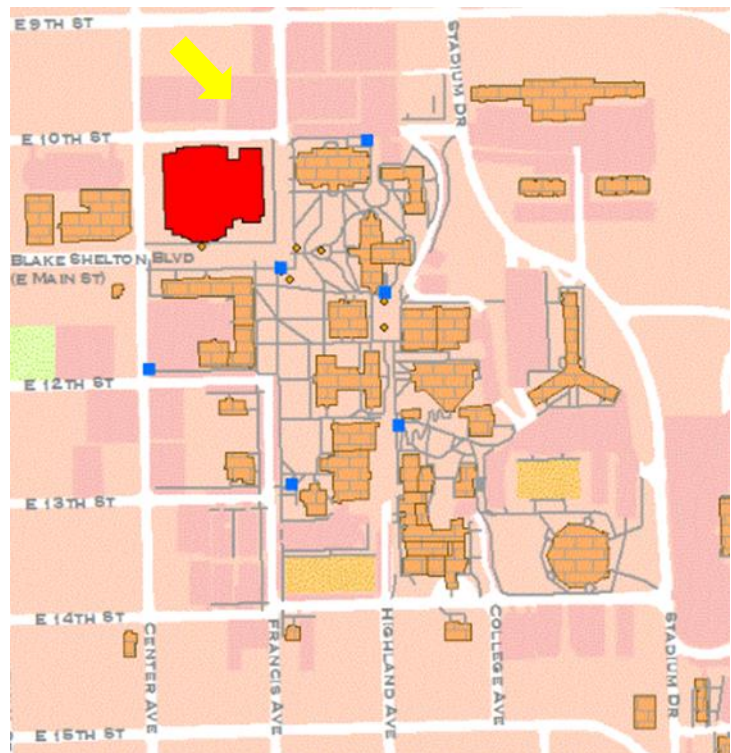
Students should arrive dressed in their caps and gowns by 7:45 am. Sponsors from the academic honor societies and the director of the University Honors Program will formally award academic regalia, such as honor cords, medallions, or stoles to each student as he or she is called to the stage. Family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

The ceremony will conclude by 9:15 a.m. so that students may report to the cafeteria 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/Provost, Dr. Jeffrey Gibson.

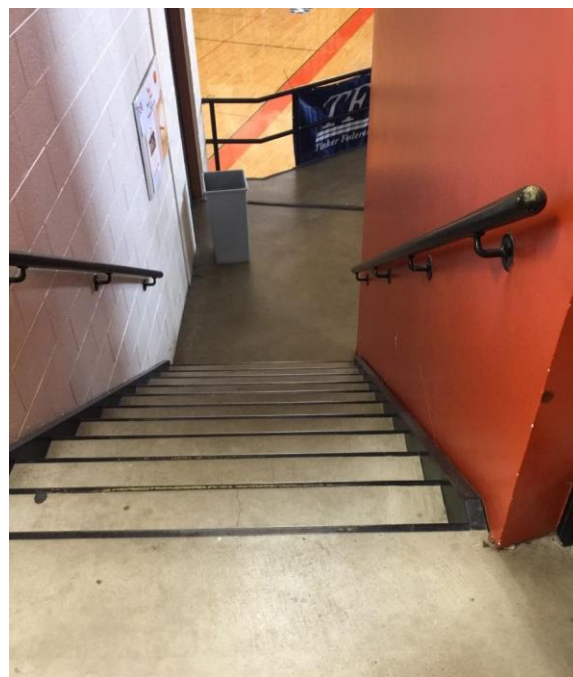
Honors Ceremony Map:

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. **Heels have caused accidents in the past!**
- Candidates are allowed to add lettering to their caps, but they are not allowed 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 respectfully to allow the families and guests to hear other 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 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 photographer from ECU's marketing office will be present to take a photo of each graduate as they walk across the stage and receive their diploma cover. These photos will be posted to ECU's website and may be downloaded free of charge. It may take up to one week after graduation before photos are available.

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 Ataloe 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.



Follow ECU Tigers on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook!!

