The conferring of an academic degree is a tradition that dates back more than 600 years and is regarded as an important rite of passage for students and their families. Some students will be the first in their families to achieve a college degree. While commencement is a time for celebration, please remember this long and respected tradition and approach the ceremony with proper decorum and respect. With this in mind, commencement participants are expected to remain seated until all graduates have been given their well-deserved recognition and the ceremony ends.

Here’s what’s you can expect on the night of the commencement ceremony:

- Arrive no later than 6 p.m.; doors open at 5 p.m.

- The commencement participants (graduates and graduation candidates) will report to the mezzanine and exhibit hall for a reception and the line-up. Follow the signs for Student Line-up. Guest seating is in the balcony.

- Everyone will be dressed in identical black caps (mortar boards) and gowns. This style of academic regalia is also part of the 600-year-old tradition for collegiate scholars. Fortunately, we have reserved the wearing of caps and gowns for the ultimate collegiate event, Commencement. In the earliest days of modern college life, the caps and gowns were worn by students daily as a symbol of their university, college or professional study. There is folklore that says the students needed the gowns for warmth in the cold drafty university buildings. No matter the reason, the gowns identified the students as academics.
• Your tassel will be on the right when you start the evening and, as a modern addition to the commencement ceremony, you will be directed to move it from right to left as a symbol of graduation. Many undergraduate colleges that do not bestow a stole or hood have used the shifting of the tassel from right to left as the symbolic gesture that you are a graduate.

• As part of the decorum of the evening, there is an order to the processional and recessional. It is important to follow your cues from the marshals to know when and where to go.

• You will be seated for most of the ceremony but, because you will need to be able to move, do not carry anything like purses or backpacks. The commencement program booklet should be left on your seat when you are standing or walking during the ceremony. The college will provide a program on each participant’s seat so you will not need to carry one into the auditorium.

• The only item you will take with you from the exhibit hall to the stage is your name card, which will help the readers and photographers do their jobs.

• MCC encourages the proper use of social media during this solemn celebration. Feel free to post your content on social media and be sure to tag MCC. However, please be respectful of this event’s purpose and don’t let overly exuberant celebration disrupt your experience.

• Please silence all of your electronics. Ask your guests to do the same.

• All commencement participants will remain in the auditorium will remain until the last participants completes their walk across the stage.

• There will be a few closing words. This is when you will receive your direction to shift your tassel at the end of the ceremony. Then you will be directed to follow the marshals for the recessional out of the auditorium.

• Your evening will end in front of Municipal Auditorium. The college will have the entire block of 13th street closed so that commencement participants and their guests can find each other and gather before leaving.

• Please remember that the student code of conduct is in effect for the commencement ceremony. Use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs and controlled substances on college premises or at any college sponsored activity, including appearing on college premises while under the influence of alcohol or drugs/controlled substances, is strictly prohibited.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

MORE THAN READY FOR WHAT’S NEXT.