



— SCAD COMMENCEMENT 2024 —

FAMILY GUIDE



Commencement has always been a special occasion at SCAD, and it provides an opportunity for the university community to celebrate our students' artistic and academic achievements. To make it a memorable moment for our graduating students and their families, we are planning commencement with singular care and innovation.

We know you are just as excited as we are to celebrate our new class of SCAD graduates! Take a few minutes to read through this information, so that the whole family will be ready for the big day.

SO YOUR STUDENT IS A SENIOR...

Senior year is an exciting and occasionally stressful time for students, as all the hard work they've invested over the last few years culminates in final projects, senior capstone classes, and launching their future careers. It can be easy for busy seniors to overlook something.

Undergraduate graduation requirements

- » Undergraduate degree candidates must earn a minimum of 180 hours of appropriate credit in an approved major program of study.
- » Candidates must earn an overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better, as well as a 3.0 or better in their major (for B.F.A. students) or concentration (for B.A. students).
- » Students pursuing a minor must earn an average of 2.0 or better in their minor program.
- » The final 45 hours of any degree program must be completed at SCAD.
- » Specific senior show requirements are available from each department chair and from the director of exhibitions.

Application for graduation

All students are required to complete an online graduation application through MySCAD > Resources tab > SCAD Student Forms channel. It is recommended that a student submit their graduation application two quarters prior to completion of their degree requirements. Students must include an expected date of graduation and receive approval from the graduation degree auditor for their school/major. Students should also specify the name they want printed on their diploma and the address where they wish to have it mailed. Diplomas are mailed 8–12 weeks following completion of the degree, after all final degree requirements have been confirmed.

Students must submit their graduation application regardless of their intention to participate in the commencement ceremony for their graduating class.

Students who complete all degree requirements during the preceding fall or winter quarters, or the spring or summer quarters of that year, will participate in the spring commencement ceremony. For example, students who complete their degrees in the Fall 2023, Winter 2024, Spring 2024, or Summer 2024 quarters will be eligible to participate in the Spring 2024 commencement exercises. Fall 2024 graduates would participate in the Spring 2025 event.

Review the graduation plan

Late in junior year or early in the senior year is a good time for students to meet with their success adviser to review their graduation plan one last time and make any adjustments that may be necessary.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE GRADUATION

Mark your calendar

Commencement dates are posted at scad.edu/calendar/academic for each SCAD location.

Caps and gowns

Students are encouraged to order their cap and gown starting in the winter quarter. More information is available from [Jostens](#) including links to order. The complete bachelor's degree package (cap, gown, tassel, and academic hood) typically costs around US\$100. Individual items, such as an additional tassel, can be purchased a la carte. Cap, gown, hood, and tassel are required for students participating in the commencement ceremonies. Students graduating with a master's degree will receive a cord denoting their degree. The deadline to order cap and gown is Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Cords and optional regalia

Optional, non-academic stoles and cords are available to purchase through [Jostens](#), the university's cap and gown supplier. These recognize achievements and interests, including military service, LGBTQA+, international affiliations, and more. Only those cords and stoles obtained through the university's official supplier or awarded by the university may be worn during the ceremony.

Class rings, graduation announcements, diploma frames, and grad gifts

Many families choose to celebrate their student's achievement with graduation announcements and a class ring. These items are available to order through the university's official partner, [Jostens](#).

Diploma frames are also available to purchase from [Ex Libris](#), the university's bookstore. Ex Libris also offers a wide array of unique SCAD grad and SCAD alumni gifts, signs, and décor.

PLANNING FOR THE BIG DAY

Ceremonies

Ceremonies at each location are broken out by academic school, so that each program is approximately the same length. Not sure which academic school your student's major is part of? Visit scad.edu/schools to find out.

Tickets

The number of guest tickets varies from year to year, and is determined by several factors, including the number of graduates and venue size. Ticket numbers are usually announced at scad.edu/commencement during the winter quarter. Graduates participating in the ceremony do not need a ticket.

Livestream of ceremonies

All SCAD commencement ceremonies will be livestreamed so that our students' family members and friends around the globe can celebrate with them. Links to each ceremony's livestream will be posted on scad.edu/commencement on the day of the event.

Special seating accommodations

Accessible guest seating is available at the event. Contact events@scad.edu to request more information.

Commencement meeting

All graduates will be required to attend a commencement meeting a few weeks prior to the ceremony. During this meeting, important details will be shared concerning the ceremony itself and what graduates need to know to come prepared. Remind your graduate to keep an eye out for emails regarding this meeting and to be sure and attend.

Travel

If you'll be traveling for commencement, you'll want to book accommodations well in advance — hotels and rentals book up months in advance of this weekend.

Dining

If you have a specific restaurant at which your graduate will want to celebrate, or you are planning to host an event for a number of friends and family members to gather after the ceremony, you'll want to make those arrangements as early as possible. Restaurant reservations may be hard to come by at the last minute if you don't have flexible options.

DAY OF THE CEREMONY

What time should we plan to arrive?

Graduates typically need to arrive two hours prior to their ceremony start time. Doors will open for guests around this same time.

Where will we park?

On-site parking is available, and graduates and family members are encouraged to ride together. Rideshares are an alternative option for arriving. Details about parking specific to each location will be shared on scad.edu/commencement closer to the event date.

What should we wear?

Graduates are encouraged to dress nicely since this is an important event, and professional attire is appropriate. Recommendations might include dark dress pants, skirt, or dress; a button-down shirt and tie or a blouse, and dark-colored shoes. Low-heeled, well-fitting shoes are highly recommended to prevent tripping on the stairs and stage.

Family members are encouraged to dress in a manner appropriate to this special occasion, but should also consider the weather forecast and likely warm outdoor temperatures. At the same time, indoor venues may be chilly, so layering

is recommended.

What can I bring?

Large bags, including but not limited to backpacks, suitcases, large camera bags, and large purses, are not allowed in the venue. All bags, purses, and packages are subject to inspection before entry to the venue. Food and drinks are not permitted.

What should we expect when we arrive?

All guests will be required to pass through a metal detector or wand to ensure the safety of ceremony guests. All bags, purses, and packages are subject to inspection before entry to the venue. Strollers will not be permitted in the seating area and will need to be left in a designated location.

How long should we expect each ceremony to last?

In Savannah, the Presidential Conferment of Degrees ceremony, where all graduates are recognized for their achievement and their degrees are formally conferred upon them by the President of the university and a representative of the Board of Trustees, lasts around one hour.

Each Presentation of Degrees ceremony, in which graduates' names are read as they walk across the stage, should last no more than two and a half hours.

In Atlanta, both components are combined into a single Presidential Conferment and Presentation of Degrees ceremony, which should last approximately two hours.

AFTER GRADUATION

When can my graduate expect to receive their diploma?

During the ceremony, your graduate will be handed a university diploma cover, containing a congratulatory letter from President Wallace. Diplomas will be mailed to the address the student designated on their application for graduation and should arrive within 8-12 weeks of completion of their degree.

Can my graduate continue to use SCAD career and alumni success resources to secure employment?

Graduates can take advantage of the university's career support services for the duration of their career. After all, "alumni" is right there in the department's name! Career advisers, workshops, and our many online career resources are available to SCAD alumni for as long as they need them, and recent grads, especially, are encouraged to continue working with their career adviser until that first job is secured.

My graduate has a job!

Congratulations! Encourage your alum to let their career adviser know of their employment, or they can email careers@scad.edu, so that we can celebrate their success. We love to follow the careers of our alumni and watch as they become active members of the vast SCAD alumni network.
