

# Compton College 2026 Commencement Day Instructions for Graduates

The 2026 Commencement Ceremony will be held at the [LBS Financial Credit Union Pyramid at CSU Long Beach](#) at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12.

## **PRE-ARRIVAL**

- We recommend that you arrive at the Pyramid by 4:45 p.m.
- Direct your family and friends to [park in Lot G11 or the Pyramid Parking Structure](#). They should arrive early for the best seats—seating is first come, first served. The venue opens at 4:30 p.m.
- Please remind your family and friends that balloons, banners, and umbrellas are not allowed in the venue. Artificial noise makers are also discouraged.
- Children and guests are not permitted in the graduate entrance or graduate-only areas. All guests must use the visitor entrance. All minors must be supervised at all times inside the CSULB Pyramid.
- **Come dressed in your cap and gown.**
  - Caps should be worn straight and level, not on the back of the head. The tassel should hang on the right.
  - Graduates may decorate the top of their caps, but no profanity or symbols/references to alcohol or controlled substances are allowed.
  - Do not decorate your gown with insignia, lettering, or signage of any type.
  - Leis are allowed; personal/custom sashes and cords are not.
  - For more information on approved or prohibited adornment, click [here](#).
- Students should wear appropriate attire under their academic regalia. Comfortable shoes are highly recommended, as you will be walking on various surfaces.
- Graduates should limit what they carry into the ceremony. Purses and bags are not allowed. Bring only what fits in your pockets. Lockers will not be available.

## **CHECK-IN**

- All graduates should start at the Compton College Welcome Area located in front of the venue and then proceed to the check-in area.
- Check-in begins at 4:45 p.m. and closes at 5:40 p.m.
  - Late arrivals must check in at the graduate entrance, not the guest entrance. Graduates arriving late will be escorted into the ceremony by Compton College event staff only.
- Upon check-in, you will receive a card with your name on it. The card will have your full name as listed in the Commencement Program and will indicate whether you are graduating with honors. There will be space for you to write how to pronounce your name if it is not obvious from the spelling.
  - Example: John Barowski (John Ba-ROFF-skee) or Emily Nguyen (Emily WIN)
  - Keep the name card with you and present it to the reader as you approach the microphone.

## **CLASS OF 2026 PHOTO — 5:30 p.m.**

A group photo will be taken outside the Pyramid before graduates line up for the processional.

## **PROCESSIONAL**

At 5:45 p.m., graduates will begin lining up for the processional.

- Form two lines: the left line will sit on the east side of the floor, and the right line will sit on the west side.
- The Student Speaker, Student Trustee, Presidential Scholars, and current graduating Associated Student Government officers will be seated in the front rows, followed by the remaining graduates of the Class of 2026.
- The Platform Party will enter first, followed by the graduates and then the faculty.
- Everyone enters their row from the center aisle. Fill every available seat before moving to the next row, then sit down.

## **CEREMONY**

### **1. Presentation of the Colors/National Anthem**

- a. All *remain standing* and men will remove caps and place them over their hearts.
- b. Following the National Anthem, please *remain standing* until the College President issues the instruction, "Please be seated."

### **2. Introductions and Speeches (*remain seated*)**

### **3. Presentation of Graduates**

- a. The College President will ask all graduates to stand.
- b. The President of the Academic Senate will approach the microphone and present the graduates to the Board of Trustees and the College President. *Remain standing.*
- c. The Platform Party prepares to confer degrees and award certificates at the front of the stage.

### **4. Conferring of Degrees — Please pay attention to the ushers.**

- a. All rows, except the first two, will be seated in unison.
- b. Rows will exit toward the outside aisle as directed by the ushers.
- c. As directed, proceed toward the stage, presenting your name card to the appropriate reader (stationed at a microphone next to the stage).
  - i. Proceed to the center aisle as your name is called to receive your diploma cover and shake hands with the Board of Trustees member.

Extend your left hand to accept the diploma cover and shake hands with the Board member with your right hand.
  - ii. Your picture will be taken as you receive your diploma cover.
  - iii. Proceed down the center aisle to your row.
  - iv. *Remain standing* until the last person in your row returns, and then be seated.
  - v. Do not exit the ceremony area until prompted to do so.

### **5. Changing of the Tassels**

- a. The College President will ask graduates to stand. The President will say a few words, and then graduates will be asked to move their tassels from the right side to the left side of their caps. Afterward, graduates will *remain standing*.

## **RECESSIONAL**

- On the College President's cue, the Platform Party and faculty will rise for the recessional. (*Graduates remain standing*)
- The Platform Party will exit first, followed by the faculty. Graduates will be the last group to leave, beginning with the back row and moving to the front as the last faculty members exit.
- The Platform Party, faculty, and graduates will proceed toward the tunnel.

## **REUNITING WITH GUESTS**

- Graduates may not exit the ceremony through the stands. If you must leave early due to a medical issue or emergency, proceed to the tunnel, where Compton College staff will assist you.
- Graduates will proceed to the front of the Pyramid to meet family and friends.