

Compton College

2025 Commencement Day Instructions for Graduates

The 2025 Commencement Ceremony will be held at the [Dignity Health Sports Park](#), in the Tennis Stadium, at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13.

PRE-ARRIVAL

- We recommend that you arrive at Dignity Health Sports Park as early as 4:00 p.m.
- Direct your family and friends to park in [Lots 10 or 11](#). They should arrive early for the best seats – first come, first served. The venue opens at 4:30 p.m.
- Please remind your families and friends that balloons, banners and umbrellas are not allowed in the venue. Also, artificial noise makers are discouraged.
- Come dressed in your cap and gown.
 - Caps should be worn straight, level, and not on the back of the head. The tassel should be worn hanging on the right.
 - Grads may decorate the top of their caps (no profanity or symbols/references to alcohol or controlled substances).
 - 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 dress in appropriate attire under their academic regalia. Comfortable shoes are highly recommended; you will be walking on various surfaces.
- Graduates should limit what they carry with them into the ceremony, no purses or bags will be allowed. Bring only what you can fit in your pockets. Lockers will not be available.

CHECK-IN

- All graduates should start at the Compton College Welcome Area located in Parking Lot 15/front of the venue and then proceed to the check-in area.
- Check-in begins at 4:15 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 indicate if you are graduating with honors. There will be space for you to write in 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)
 - The name card is to be kept with you and presented to the reader as you approach the microphone.

RECEPTION

A reception will be held for graduates at the stadium from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. Complimentary refreshments will be provided. A “Red Carpet Event” will be held for grads to walk the red carpet and snap photos.

PROCESSIONAL

At 5:30 p.m., graduates will begin to line up for the Processional.

- Two lines (the left line will sit on the east side of the floor, 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 2025.
- The Platform Party will enter first, followed by grads, and then the faculty.
- Everyone enters their rows from the center aisle. Fill every available seat before entering the next row. 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/Graduates - except the First Two (2) rows - 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 while your name is called and 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. They will say a few words, and then Graduates will be asked to change their tassels from the right to the left side of their caps. After this action, 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. The graduates are the last group to leave after the faculty. From the back row to front, as the last faculty exits.
- 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 an emergency, proceed to the tunnel where Compton College Staff will assist you.
- Graduates will proceed to the Compton College Welcome Area in Lot 15 and the front of the stadium to meet family and friends.