

2020
• UNDERGRADUATE •
**COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY**



Friday, May 22, 2020
Webster Bank Arena
600 Main Street • Bridgeport, CT
SouthernCT.edu/commencement

A Guide for Family and Friends

COMMENCEMENT SITE

- The university will hold its undergraduate commencement at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, beginning with an academic procession at 10:15 a.m.
- Located about 30 minutes from campus, the arena is easily accessible from I-95 and the Merritt Parkway. **Due to the likelihood of rush-hour traffic on I-95, please allow yourself extra time to arrive at the arena, consider carpooling and use the Merritt Parkway, if possible. (See site map for directions.)**
- The indoor arena is fully air-conditioned and can seat up to 7,000 guests. It is wheelchair-accessible and will provide services for guests with disabilities.
- The ceremony will be streamed on the Internet at SouthernCT.edu/commencement.

GUEST TICKETS DISTRIBUTION

- Eligible students participating in commencement must pick up their reader card and guest tickets by **May 9**. Students eligible to participate in commencement include those who have applied for graduation with the Registrar's Office for spring 2020 or summer 2020. These students must have more than 100 credits earned (not including in-progress credits).
- Tickets will be distributed to students only on May 7 to May 9 at the Adanti Student Center. **Each candidate will receive up to four guest tickets.** If you do not need all four tickets, please leave them so that others may use them.
- **All guests are required to have a ticket.**
- All guest seating is unreserved.

PARKING AND ARRIVAL

- Parking is available in the lots surrounding the arena. Because more than 8,000 people are expected to attend the ceremony, all graduating seniors, together with families and friends, are asked to arrive at the parking lots before 9 a.m.
- **Expect traffic delays, so plan extra travel time.** To alleviate traffic congestion, students and families are encouraged to travel together or car pool. Persons with state-issued handicapped parking permits may park in the handicapped parking areas of the garage or as directed by traffic personnel. See the enclosed sheet for directions, parking information, and fees.
- **Audience seating in the arena and the graduate procession assembly area opens at 8:15 a.m.**
- All students are asked to arrive at the assembly area no later than 9:30 a.m.
- Ticketed guests will enter the arena through the front entrance, and candidates are asked to move immediately to the assembly area in the arena parking garage lower level. Candidates should not carry anything into the assembly area.
- All rules and security regulations of the arena apply to all participants in the commencement ceremony. Please note that oversized bags, helium balloons, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the arena. All candidates and guests will be stopped at the doors for a security check.

SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- The arena is wheelchair-accessible and will provide services for guests with disabilities. These services, available on a first-come, first-served basis, include handicapped parking, wheelchair locations with companion seating, sign language interpreting, and programs in large-print and alternative formats.
- First-aid medical assistance is staffed by EMT professionals. The first-aid station is located on the first floor of the arena below sections 107 and 108.



ATTENDING THE CEREMONY

- Please silence your cell phone during the ceremony.
- You will not be allowed to take photographs near the stage or in the graduate seating area. The university has arranged for a professional photographer to take photographs of your graduate receiving his or her diploma jacket on stage. The photographer will contact students before the ceremony about these photographs.

The photographer’s website is commencementphotos.com.

- For your own safety, and the safety of people sitting near you, do not stand on chairs during the ceremony. Out of respect for the graduates, you are asked to remain seated until everyone has received his or her degree and marched out of the arena at the end of the ceremony. **Students who have chosen to participate in the ceremony will not be allowed to leave early. Out of respect for all of the graduates, please plan to stay for the entire ceremony.**

MEMORABILIA/GIFTS AND FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

- Student organizations, the university bookstore, and the SCSU Alumni Association will be on site offering students and their guests the opportunity to purchase flowers and other merchandise. Please consider supporting their efforts, as proceeds from sales benefit student clubs. After the ceremony there will also be opportunities to take photographs with graduates at SCSU-themed backdrops on the concourse or outside the arena.

