

2020
• UNDERGRADUATE •
**COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY**

A Guide for Students

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

COMMENCEMENT SITE

- The university will hold its undergraduate commencement at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, beginning with an academic procession at 10:05 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. 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.
- The ceremony will be streamed on the Internet at SouthernCT.edu/commencement.

SENIOR SURVEY

- Each graduating student must complete this short survey before they can pick up their reader card and guest tickets. Go to <https://baseline.campuslabs.com/scsu/gss1920> to complete the survey.

GUEST TICKETS DISTRIBUTION AND CANDIDATE READER CARD

- Students eligible to participate in commencement include students who have completed their degree requirements in fall 2019 and winter 2019-20 and students who applied for a spring 2020 and summer 2020 degree with the Registrar's Office and have earned more than 100 credits (including in-progress credits).
- Tickets will be distributed to students in person with their SCSU I.D. in 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.
- All candidates must have a commencement reader card for admittance to the garage assembly area. This card will include the name of your school.

TICKET AND READER CARD DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

- **Thursday, May 7,** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Adanti Student Center Ballroom Pre-Function area
- **Friday, May 8,** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. –
Adanti Student Center Information Desk
- **Saturday, May 9,** 8 a.m. to noon –
Adanti Student Center Information Desk
- Eligible students participating in commencement must pick up their reader card and guest tickets by **May 9.**
- Tickets not picked up by Saturday, May 9 will be distributed to others seeking additional tickets for the ceremony.
- Additional tickets can be requested as part of the pick up process. If additional tickets are available, students who requested tickets will be notified by email regarding the distribution date.

CAPS AND GOWNS

- Candidates for the bachelor's degree must purchase a cap and gown at the university bookstore in order to participate in the ceremony. Caps and gowns will be available beginning **Wednesday, April 1.** Bookstore hours are Monday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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. No guests will be allowed 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.
- Flowers will be available for purchase at the arena.

GRADUATE PROCESSION ASSEMBLY

- The procession assembly will take place on the first floor of the parking garage. All graduation candidates must have a commencement reader card for admittance to the Webster Bank Arena assembly area. Candidates will not be allowed into the arena.
- In the assembly area, commencement marshals will direct candidates to their respective schools for line placement. The commencement reader card will enable the school marshals to assist in lining up candidates correctly.
Please note that personal items such as handbags, cameras, coffee, etc., may not be brought into the assembly area.

ACADEMIC PROCESSION AND CEREMONY

- You must be in line no later than 9:45 a.m., so that the commencement procession can begin promptly at 10:05 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. It will last approximately two and a half hours.
- As you line up for the procession, you should have your reader card. If your name is difficult to pronounce, print it phonetically: (Example: John P. Sobelesky = "So-ba-LES-ski"). This will help us pronounce your name correctly as you walk across the stage to receive your diploma.
- Degree candidates will line up for the procession by college or school. For your college or school, see major list below:

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

- Anthropology
- Art Education
- Art History
- Art, Studio
- Biology
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Earth Science
- Economics (B.A.)
- English
- Environmental Systems and Sustainability
- French
- General Studies
- Geography
- German
- History
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Italian
- Journalism
- Liberal Studies
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Theatre

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

- Accounting
- Business Economics
- Finance
- International Business
- Management
- Management Info Systems (MIS)
- Marketing
- Public Utilities Management

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- Early Childhood
- Elementary Education
- Elementary Education/Bilingual Collaborative
- Information Management and Services

- Special Education
- Special Education/Elementary Education

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Athletic Training
- Communication Disorders
- Exercise Science
- Health Science
- Healthcare Studies
- Nursing
- Public Health
- Recreation and Leisure Studies
- Respiratory Therapy
- Social Work
- Sport Management

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

- You will receive your diploma by school. Your dean will ask you to stand at the appropriate time in the ceremony. You will then be asked to come forward to receive your diploma jacket on stage. Please do not leave any of your belongings at your chair, as you may not end up in the same seat. The university has arranged for a private professional photographer to take photographs of you receiving your diploma jacket on stage. The photographer will contact students before the ceremony about these photographs.

The photographer's website is commencementphotos.com.

- **Out of respect for your classmates, you must return to your seat after receiving your diploma jacket and remain there until the president confers your degree at the end of the ceremony.**

COMMENCEMENT DECORUM

- Past classes have established a tradition of dignified behavior befitting an academic event as important as commencement. Our faculty is confident that your class will continue this tradition. We invite you to participate in commencement with the understanding that the faculty will not tolerate disruptive behavior. Remember, more than 7,000 relatives of students and friends of the university attend this ceremony.
- Do not bring alcoholic beverages to commencement.
- For your own safety and the safety of people sitting near you, do not stand on chairs during the ceremony.
- Please silence your cell phone during the ceremony.
- **Students who have chosen to participate must plan to stay for the entire ceremony.**