

Subject: 2022 Commencement Ceremony

April 4, 2022

NOC Tonkawa Graduates:

On behalf of the NOC Board of Regents and President Clark Harris we congratulate you for completing a degree at Northern Oklahoma College and invite you to participate in a celebration of your accomplishments in the 2022 Commencement Ceremony. Commencement is staged in full academic regalia with all of the pomp and circumstance honoring our graduates. After two years of adjusted ceremonies, we are excited to return to a more traditional celebration this year.

In order to prepare for the official ceremony, please be certain you complete the free graduation application located at <http://www.noc.edu/graduation> (regardless of whether you are planning to graduate in May or by the end of summer). The application must be completed by the **priority deadline of April 8** in order for your name to appear in the graduation program.

Also, **your virtual attendance is required at one of two commencement practices sessions on Wednesday, April 27, 4:00pm., or Thursday, April 28, at 2:00pm.** The Zoom meeting will last no more than one hour and will cover commencement logistics as well as provide information for new alumni. The Zoom link to this practice session will be emailed on Monday April 25.

Commencement Procedures:

1. **When to Arrive:** We will meet in the NOC cafeteria on the Tonkawa Campus at **8:30 a.m., Saturday, April 30.** Our Commencement March begins at 9:20 a.m. This allows ten minutes for the Grand March to arrive at the Foster-Piper Fieldhouse for the 9:30 a.m. start for Commencement. If it is raining, we will form lines in the east gym of the Foster-Piper Fieldhouse.
2. **Name Card:** As you arrive at the cafeteria, you will need to have a 3" x 5" name card filled out and ready to give to the announcer. Print your name on the card showing your first name first and last name second. If your name is difficult to pronounce, quietly pronounce it for the announcer just before you cross the stage.
3. **The Processional:** You will assemble on the Plaza forming three degree groups: AA, AS, AAS. Leaders for each group have been identified and will be holding signs to be more easily found. The Grand March will begin from the Plaza and proceed across the campus in a formal order. As we enter the field house, you will remain standing until after the choir sings the "Pledge of Allegiance." Our marshals will notify the front row to be seated and the remaining rows will follow. Men should remove caps for the invocation and benediction.
4. **Announcement of Graduates:** After the speaker's address, students will be asked to rise, and then the class as a whole will be presented to Dr. Harris, who will then confer the degrees. After Dr. Harris' statement, all candidates except the front row shall be seated. The front row moves to the right. As each row is vacated, the next row rises as a group and proceeds to the platform.

5. **Awarding the Diploma Covers:** Dr. Harris will greet each graduate on stage and hand them a diploma cover. Your official diploma will be mailed following the ceremony. Upon returning to your chair, you will be seated individually. A place on the other side of the stage will be marked for you to pause for a photograph.
6. **Turning of the Tassels:** Immediately following the issuing of the diplomas, President Harris will take the podium and ask graduates to rise and turn your tassels from the **right side of your Mortar Board to the left side**. Then we will enjoy a performance of the Alma Mater.
7. **The Recessional:** Following the Benediction, without introduction, the marshals will come to the front and motion for the class to rise. The Recessional will begin with the marshals leading, followed by the front row of graduates, then the rest of the rows of graduates (same order as Processional), followed by Dr. Harris, Regents, administration, and faculty (same order as the Processional). The front rows of graduates are not to stop marching until arriving well onto the lawn area to prevent major congestion in the entryway of the auditorium.

Special Notes:

1. Graduation announcements will be available beginning April 8th in the NOC Bookstore and may be purchased at \$.50/each.
2. The Ceremony and the March
Appropriate Dress:
 - a. Caps and gowns may be picked up from the bookstore any time after April 11.
 - b. Wear your mortar board horizontally with the point directly in the front center.
 - c. Wear your tassel on the right side of the mortar board.
- a. Shoes--It is recommended that only dress shoes be worn, no sandals, flip-flops, high platform shoes, nor running/tennis shoes.
- b. Candidates need to lift gown slightly when going up and down the ramp.
3. If a graduate has a request for reasonable accommodations for the commencement exercises and/or needs special assistance entering the stage area, notify Dean Ryan Paul 580-628-6240, prior to the ceremony.
4. Personal cameras may be used at any time during the ceremony.
5. Please inform family that seating may be limited so they should arrive early.

Remember – You must attend one virtual commencement practice to be hosted on Wednesday, April 27, at 4 p.m., or Thursday, April 28, at 2:00 pm. A link for this practice will be sent to you on Monday, April 25.



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