

Subject: 2026 Commencement Ceremony for Tonkawa and Stillwater Graduates

March 25, 2026

NOC Tonkawa and Stillwater Graduates:

On behalf of the NOC Board of Regents and President Diana Morris, we congratulate you for completing a degree at Northern Oklahoma College and invite you to participate in a celebration of your accomplishments in the 2026 Commencement Ceremony. Commencement is staged in full academic regalia with all of the pomp and circumstance honoring our graduates.

**Your participation is encouraged at the virtual rehearsal session at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.** The virtual (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 will be posted on the graduation website.

Commencement Procedures:

1. **When to Arrive:** We will meet in the NOC cafeteria on the Tonkawa Campus at **8:30 a.m., Saturday, May 2nd**. 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 located. 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 President Morris, who will then confer the degrees. After her 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 group and proceeds to the platform.
5. **Awarding the Diploma Covers:** Each graduate will walk onto the stage to receive 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 Morris 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 President Morris, 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 1st in the NOC Bookstore and may be purchased at \$.75/each.
2. The Ceremony and the March  
Appropriate Dress:
  - a. Caps and gowns may be picked up from the Tonkawa located bookstore any time after April 20<sup>th</sup>. Stillwater students may have caps and gowns couriered to the NOC Stillwater campus and pick them up in the Bursar's window by filling out this form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTdm4UKxlQr7-cMnwCIPUadsxoXh37veJtB7OyiY2yv9DthQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTdm4UKxlQr7-cMnwCIPUadsxoXh37veJtB7OyiY2yv9DthQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)
  - 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.
  - d. Shoes--It is recommended that only dress shoes be worn, no sandals, flip-flops, high platform shoes, nor running/tennis shoes.
  - e. 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 – Virtual commencement practice will be hosted on Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. A link for this practice is posted on the graduation page on the NOC website.**



Academic Affairs

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