



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FAQs

After years of hard work and dedication, Palo Alto College's class of 2021 will be completing their associate degrees and certificates and Palo Alto! Completing a degree or certificate is a huge accomplishment, and Palo Alto College will be hosting its annual commencement ceremony to celebrate. Social distancing and mask-wearing will be observed to protect the health and safety of all attendees.

When and where is commencement?

Our commencement ceremony will be held on May 22, 2021, at the Southwest Legacy Auditorium located at 4495 SW Verano Pkwy., Von Ormy, Texas 78073.

At what time does commencement start?

To accommodate all graduates and their two guests, there will be four sessions: 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. Each graduate will be designated a session according to their last name. Please visit alamo.edu/pac/2021grads periodically for updates.

How long is commencement?

The commencement ceremony will take approximately one hour.

How many people can I invite?

Each student will be limited to **two** guests. Only guests with a ticket will be permitted to enter. The ceremony will be **livestreamed on Palo Alto College's YouTube channel!** Share your session's link below with loved ones so they can tune in as we celebrate your accomplishments together!

[Session 1 - 9 a.m. livestream](#)

[Session 2 - 11 a.m. livestream](#)

[Session 3 - 1 p.m. livestream](#)

[Session 4 - 3 p.m. livestream](#)

At what time should I arrive?

Students should arrive at least one hour prior to the start of their scheduled ceremony time.

Where do I check in?

Using the tickets provided during cap and gown pickup, students will check in at the cafeteria based on their time slots. Please be sure to arrive at least one hour prior to the start of your scheduled time.

Scan the QR code on your ticket for your parking and entrance locations. Due to safety precautions, students and guests must have individual tickets to enter at separate locations. If you are a GED or Early College High School student, check the appropriate box on the ticket.

Graduates will **NOT** be allowed to bring personal items they can't carry on their person as personal storage will not be available. **All guests must remain seated throughout the entire ceremony. Masks and six feet of social distancing will be enforced.**

Who do I contact if I need Disability Services to interpret or assist me during commencement?

Students with disabilities can request reasonable accommodations through the Disability Support Services office at 210-486-3020. Please give a 72-hour advanced notice to arrange accommodations.

What should I wear?

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

What side should my tassel be on my cap?

Before the ceremony, graduates wear tassels on the right side of the cap until directed to turn the tassel by the College president.

Can I decorate my graduation cap?

Yes! All decorations must lay flat on the cap. Nothing can lay perpendicular, thus allowing us to see the decoration beyond eye level. Caps should not be offensive, distracting, or obstruct anyone's view of the ceremony.

Can I wear anything over my graduation gown?

Due to the formality of this occasion, we ask that you do not cover your gown with personal items. Only approved stoles or cords can be worn over your gown. Your graduation gown should not be decorated.

Do I receive my diploma/certificate during the commencement?

NO, you will receive a diploma cover. Your diploma/certificate will be mailed to you about 2-3 months after completing all degree requirements.

At what time do the doors open for guests at commencement?

Using the tickets provided to the student with their cap and gown, guests will be able to enter the auditorium through a separate location, 30 minutes before the graduate's scheduled ceremony time frame. Guests must show their tickets to be allowed entry to the auditorium.

What is NOT permitted at commencement?

To provide an enjoyable environment for all attendees, the following items are prohibited:

- Air horns, shakers, and other noisemakers;
- Signs, posters, and banners;
- Confetti, streamers, beach balls, and balloons;
- Backpacks;
- No food or drinks will be allowed in the auditorium.

Where do I park?

There will be designated parking based on the assigned time of arrival. Scan the QR code on your entry ticket. You will see two parking lots, one colored in blue and one in teal.

If your ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m. or 1 p.m., you will park in the teal parking lot indicated on the map. If you are scheduled for the 11 a.m. or 3 p.m. sessions, park in the blue parking lot displayed on the map.

Is there a parking charge?

There is no charge for graduates or guests to park.

How do I keep in touch with Palo Alto College after I graduate?

Your connections to Palo Alto College do not end when you graduate. Whether you have taken a class, completed a certificate, or earned a degree, you are considered an alumnus. Once a Palomino, always a Palomino! Membership in the PAC Alumni & Friends Association is all about being PAC proud.

Here's what you can expect when you join:

- Establishing and maintaining relationships with alumni, former students, family members, and community members
- Opportunities to give back to Palo Alto College through service
- Participation in alumni activities, events, and fundraisers

Check out YOUR alumni website at alamo.edu/pac/alumni.

We look forward to celebrating you and this amazing milestone! Any additional questions related to graduation or the commencement ceremony can be sent to pac-graduation@alamo.edu.



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT
Palo Alto College