

## Commencement 2019 Frequently Asked Questions

*How do I know if I'm eligible to graduate?*

- Students who are within 6 credits of completion can petition to participate in the commencement ceremony. If you have any questions about your eligibility to graduate, please contact your faculty advisor for guidance.

*When will I receive my diploma?*

- At Commencement, you will receive your diploma cover. Your actual diploma will be mailed to you (typically in mid-June), once the Registrar has verified your grades and all obligations to Student Accounts and Financial Aid are met. The Registrar's Office can provide you with a Letter of Completion if needed before your diploma arrives.

*What time do I need to be at Commencement?*

- Please report to the Hanover Theater by 9:00 a.m., using the Stage Door entrance at the back of the theatre. Guests should be seated no later than 9:45 a.m., using the main entrance. Guests arriving late will be seated after the graduates have processed.

*How long will the ceremony last?*

- The ceremony is scheduled to begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will last no more than 2 hours.

*Will the College send news of my graduation to my hometown newspaper?*

- Anna Maria College is proud to send a graduation announcement to your hometown newspaper, but we are required by law to have your permission. This is a free service provided to students of the College. Please complete the Commencement Press Release Form at [www.annamaria.edu/commencement](http://www.annamaria.edu/commencement).

## COMMENCEMENT TICKETS

*Why is there an 8 ticket limit for the Commencement Ceremony?*

- The Commencement Ceremony is held in the Hanover Theatre in Worcester, a beautiful, historic venue. Due to its seating capacity, we have to limit tickets. This ensures that each graduate receives tickets. There will be a live stream of the ceremony available for any guests not able to attend.

*Why aren't all of my seats together?*

- We assign tickets in two different sections— this ensures that each graduate has the opportunity to receive 4 preferred seating tickets.

*Do children need a ticket?*

- Infants and young children do not require a ticket if they will be sitting on a ticketed guest's lap. As the ceremony is lengthy, we generally recommend a ticket for children 2 and older so that children and parents are more comfortable. We will have a live stream of the ceremony in the lobby if little ones need to get their wiggles out.

*Can I buy extra tickets?*

- Tickets are provided at no charge, but there is an 8 ticket limit per graduate. It is not possible to buy extra tickets, due to the seating capacity of the Hanover Theatre.

*One of my guests uses a wheelchair/has limited mobility. Can I request special seating?*

- The Hanover Theatre does offer accessible seating. Every effort will be made to grant requests for special seating to accommodate disabilities in the order that requests are received. As such seating is limited, please assist us by submitting your Commencement Ticket Request Form as early as possible at [www.annamaria.edu/commencement](http://www.annamaria.edu/commencement).

*When will I receive my Commencement tickets?*

- Tickets will be distributed in mid-April. Full-Time Bachelor's recipients will receive an email with ticket pick-up instructions. All others (Master's recipients, Online / Continuing Ed. Bachelor's recipients) will be mailed to the home address on the ticket request form.

## **ACADEMIC ATTIRE**

*Can I decorate my cap?*

- You may decorate your cap, as long as the height, width, and length of the cap remain unchanged (nothing sticking up or overhanging). There should also be some black visible on the top. Any caps not adhering to these guidelines, or containing inappropriate language or images, will be removed at lineup. In other words, have fun, but keep it appropriate please! We will have displays of past decorated caps, and some that were disallowed, at senior events such as Cap and Gown Day and ticket pickup.

*How do I know if I've received the correct hood color?*

- Your hood color represents the degree that you have earned - please refer to the Hood Color chart at [www.buildagrad.com/annamaria](http://www.buildagrad.com/annamaria).

*Will I receive an academic honors cord, and if so, when can it be worn?*

- Bachelor's degree recipients graduating with academic honors (cumulative grade point average 3.5 and above) will receive a gold cord to symbolize this achievement. The Registrar will distribute honors cords prior to Commencement on campus, and also at Baccalaureate and Commencement lineups. Honors cords issued by Anna Maria College may be worn at Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement.

*Will I receive a cord for membership in a National or International Honor Society? If so, when can it be worn?*

- National/International Honor Societies typically provide cords or medallions to their members at a separate induction ceremony prior to Commencement. Please contact your society's faculty advisor for details. Cords/medallions received for membership in a National or International Honor Society may be worn at Baccalaureate and Commencement.

*What is a Kente Stole, and when is it worn?*

- The Kente Stole is a ceremonial garment worn by graduating Students of Color at Anna Maria College. The Kente Stole serves as a solidarity statement and a rite of passage, and is worn at Commencement only. For more information or to order a Kente Stole, please contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, 508-849-3396.

## **BACCALAUREATE MASS / HOODING**

*What is the Baccalaureate Mass?*

- Baccalaureate Mass is a Catholic Mass, celebrating the Sacrament of the Eucharist and graduating students. Commencement Weekend begins on Friday with Baccalaureate Mass, and culminates with Commencement Exercises on Saturday. The Baccalaureate Mass combines a Catholic liturgy with the hooding of Bachelor's and Master's degree recipients. All members of the Anna Maria College community and their guests are invited to attend the Mass, regardless of faith.

*What is the hooding?*

- At the conclusion of the Baccalaureate Mass, your chosen faculty member places the hood around your shoulders, recognizing your academic success. Your hood (the part of your regalia that resembles a scarf) represents the degree that you have earned. Bachelor's degree recipients: To invite a faculty member to present you with your hood, please complete the Hooding Invitation at [www.annamaria.edu/commencement](http://www.annamaria.edu/commencement). Master's degree recipients: Your program chair and faculty will present you with your hood (hooding invitation is not needed).