



May 1, 2019

Congratulations! SUNY Erie's Commencement is a momentous occasion and is the most dignified of academic ceremonies. Below you will find all the information needed to attend commencement.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2019  
**Time:** 7:00 P.M.  
**Place:** Buffalo State Sports Arena, 1300 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14222 (**Enter from Grant Street-see enclosed map**)

The following procedures have been established by SUNY Erie:

**Prior to Graduation: If you had marked on your application that you were planning on attending commencement**, then you must report to your campus bookstore with your student ID in order to pick up a cap and gown. Be sure to bring your academic attire to graduation, as well as something to secure your cap. All graduates will receive **three** admission tickets for family and guests. \*Due to capacity restrictions, there are no additional tickets available. Graduates will be given an additional admittance ticket for themselves. **All graduates and guests (including children) must have a ticket to enter graduation. This will be strictly enforced due to the fire code.** The ceremony will be streamed live; follow the link at <http://www.ecc.edu>.

**Special Accommodations:** A barrier-free entrance is available in the front of the Sports Arena. Accessible parking (license or hang tag required) is in Lot G-24. Refer to the enclosed map. Accessible seating for guests with disabilities is also available and on reserve for guests using the barrier-free entrance. Please follow the arrows to these seats inside the arena; escorts are available upon request. A sign language interpreter will be present throughout the ceremony also.

**Caps and Gowns:** All caps and gowns must be picked up at your respective bookstore between Monday, May 6, 2019 and Monday, May 20, 2019.

**Campus Bookstore Hours week of May 6, 2019**

**Mon May 6 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (City 5 p.m.)**  
**Tues May 7 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (North 5 p.m.)**  
**Wed May 8 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (South 5 p.m.)**  
**Thu May 9 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Fri May 10 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Campus Bookstore Hours week of May 13, 2019**

**Mon May 13 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (City 5 p.m.)**  
**Tues May 14 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (North 5 p.m.)**  
**Wed May 15 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (South 5 p.m.)**  
**Thu May 16 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Fri May 17 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Mon May 20 8:30 am. – 6:00 p.m. (all locations)**

**Professional Photographs:** Photographs will be taken by Grad Images, 3490 Martin Hurst Road, Tallahassee, FL 32312 Phone: 800-261-2576, Customer order <http://www.gradimages.com>.

**During the Ceremony:** All graduates will have their photos taken while receiving their diploma cover from the President. Proofs will be mailed to each graduate who fills out an address card in the student robing area prior to the ceremony. You will be contacted by the company after the ceremony.

**Family Members: Guests are not allowed on the gymnasium floor at any time.**

Additionally, please refrain from standing in the aisles adjacent to the stage to photograph graduates. Please do not bring balloons in the arena area.

**Diplomas:** May graduates will receive their diplomas in July. September graduates in October, and January graduates in February. Please notify the Registrar's Office if your current address is different than the address on the Application for Graduation. If there is any problem with your certification, you will be notified.

### **Graduation Day**

- 1. Parking:** Parking is free and all lots are open (except for G-24 which is reserved for students with special accommodations). Refer to the enclosed map.  
**\*NOTE: Please be aware that the speed limit on RT. 198 is only 30 mph.**
- 2. Procedure:** There is no rehearsal for the Commencement ceremony. Graduates should arrive by 6:00 p.m. and report to the Ice Arena inside the Sports Arena for robing. There will be faculty and staff available to assist with robing and the procession. Do not leave bags, purses, or other valuable items in this room as the college will not be responsible. Graduates will proceed from the Ice Arena to the main floor. Please remain in your single file line through the entire procession into the gym. Follow the Activities Coordinators to the Commencement area. Remain standing until you are asked to be seated by the President.
- 3. Graduate Policy: All graduates, families, and friends are expected to remain for the entire Commencement ceremony.** Unnecessary movement may prevent families and friends of graduates crossing the stage from hearing the name of the graduate. Graduates should not leave the ceremony floor until the appropriate time during the recessional. We suggest refraining from bringing infants and small children to the ceremony.
- 4. Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices must be turned off during the entire Commencement ceremony.
- 5. Graduate Attire:** Only college-approved braids, cords, stoles, or tassels may be worn with graduation apparel. No other paraphernalia may be worn. All students in the Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa students should consult their advisors regarding appropriate insignia and attire. Students who have achieved High Distinction (a 3.5 or

higher cumulative GPA as of the end of the Fall 2018 term) are eligible to wear gold tassels on their mortarboard. The tassel is to be worn on the right side until you are instructed at the end of the ceremony to switch your tassel. Gold tassels will be available at the college bookstore for those who are eligible.

6. **Graduate Attire for Veterans and Members of the Military:** Veterans and currently serving Members of the Active and Reserve Components will be recognized with a red, white, and blue braid. Veterans and currently serving Members of the Active and Reserve Components can pick up their braid, cap and gown at their respective campus bookstore.
7. **Presentation of Diploma Covers:** Following the Commencement address, graduates will be asked to stand and come forward. As your name is called, proceed and accept the diploma cover in your left hand and shake the President's hand with your right. Proceed immediately **down the middle of the stage** to your seat and be seated. **Graduates are required to remain in their seats until the conclusion of the ceremony.** Once the presentation of diploma covers has been concluded, all graduates will be asked to stand for the formal conferring of degrees and/or certificates. The Commencement will then be declared closed. Remain in your place until the dignitaries and faculty have left the stage and have processioned out the entrance door. Once the dais has processioned out, you may join your family and friends. At the conclusion of the ceremony, each graduate will receive a gift from the Alumni Association. Diplomas should be mailed in mid-July.
8. **Alumni Merchandise:** Bouquets of flowers will be available for sale at the Alumni table near the second floor concession stand. Proceeds will benefit the Alumni Association.
9. For additional information, go to: [www.ecc.edu/commencement](http://www.ecc.edu/commencement).

We look forward to seeing you on May 22 and, on behalf of SUNY Erie, wish you continued success!

Sincerely,

Petrina Hill-Cheatom  
Dean of Students  
City Campus

Jason Perri  
Dean of Students  
North Campus