



May 7, 2025 Metro Commencement Ceremony

Please read this letter in its entirety as it includes important information.

Ceremony Information

Date: Wednesday, May 7
Time: 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm (*this is approximate, as we have over 1200 graduates participating*)
Location: Wells Fargo Arena
233 Center St, Des Moines
Doors Open 5:00 pm

Cap and Gown Pickup

Date: Wednesday, May 7
Time: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Location: EMC Expo Center, Hall B
(formerly HyVee Hall)
730 3rd Street, Des Moines
Doors Open 5:00 pm

The event will be livestreamed. A link will be emailed to graduates prior to the ceremony.

ATTIRE and CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

Commencement regalia shall consist of a cap, gown and tassel. If earned, DMACC honor cords, veterans cords, DMACC Honors Program medallions and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) stoles may also be worn at the ceremony. PTK members should contact your chapter advisor for information about obtaining stoles prior to the ceremony. This is a solemn occasion, so please choose clothing and shoes that will respect this event. The processional requires plenty of walking, including stairs down to the arena floor and walking to the stage and back. Plan accordingly and wear comfortable shoes.

Reader cards, caps, gowns, tassels, and cords are distributed in Hall B of EMC Expo Center (formerly known as HyVee Hall). You will begin by checking in at the Reader Card Table. You must keep your reader card with you at all times. This is used to read your name aloud and scanned to display your name on the Jumbotron when you cross the stage during the ceremony. **Please note that Hall B is intended for graduates only.** Once you receive your regalia you are welcome to join your guests in Wells Fargo Arena to socialize, eat, and take pictures prior to the ceremony.

CEREMONY INFORMATION

Due to safety/security protocols at Wells Fargo, graduates are required to stay on the arena floor for the entire ceremony. If you think this will be an issue, then you may want to reconsider whether to participate. If you want individual and/or family photos taken, please plan to arrive before 6pm. If you do not intend to have photos taken, please plan to arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 pm to allow time to pick up your cap and gown and receive instructions for the processional. **Graduates are required to be dressed in their regalia and in their seats in EMC Expo Center (formerly known as HyVee Hall), Hall B, by 6:30 pm.**

Participants in the graduation ceremony are presented as candidates for their respective awards. If you are eligible for more than one certificate/diploma/degree, your name is listed in the program for all awards but you will only walk across the stage once for the highest award received. Graduates who completed their program requirements in December of 2024 will be identified in the commencement program as fall graduates. At commencement you will receive a diploma cover. **Diplomas are mailed** approximately six weeks after the end of term in which you complete your program requirements. ****To earn an honor cord, students must achieve a 3.50 grade point average in all courses that apply toward their program of study. Because we will not have spring grades recorded prior to the commencement ceremony, only courses completed through the fall 2024 semester are included in this GPA calculation.**

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require special accommodations or assistance during the ceremony, contact Credentials/Graduation immediately so arrangements can be made. Closed captioning will be available. Handicap parking is available in all the lots surrounding the arena. If your guests need special accommodations, please see a Wells Fargo Arena usher at the ceremony.

NO COAT CHECK

There is no coat check available. Please plan to leave purses, keys and valuables at home or with family members. Do not bring backpacks to the ceremony. Information on Wells Fargo's bag policy and security measures can be found on their FAQ page here, <https://www.iowaeventscenter.com/plan-your-visit/faqs-venue-policies>.

GUEST SEATING

Wells Fargo Arena provides a generous amount of seating for guests. We do not limit the number of guests that students can invite, and tickets are not required. Children must sit in the arena seats with an adult. They are not allowed to sit with graduates on the arena floor. Doors open at 5pm and seating is first come, first served.

PARKING

Wells Fargo Arena/EMC Expo Center charges for parking in the lot, but free parking may be available on the streets. Please allow extra time to find parking and still arrive at the arena on time. Additional parking information can be found at <http://www.iowaeventscenter.com/plan-your-visit/directions-parking>.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Grad Team will photograph this year's ceremony. **Individual and family photos will be taken between 5:30 pm and 6:15 pm only on the second level of Wells Fargo Arena.** Additionally, each student will be photographed during the commencement ceremony when crossing and when exiting the stage. The Grad Team will send proofs to you within one week after commencement. You may order copies of the proof and various photograph packages at <https://thegradteam.com/events/dmacc/>

FOOD

Concession items will be available for purchase at Wells Fargo Arena. Please no outside food.

If you have questions regarding commencement or are no longer able to attend, please contact the Credentials/Graduation Office at: (515) 964-6644 or credentials@dmacc.edu.