



South College

2024 South College Pinning & Hooding Ceremony

Reception to follow

Thursday, June 13, 2024

1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Knoxville Convention Center

701 Henley St

Knoxville, TN 37902

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate in these events?

Knoxville based, CBE (Competency-Based Education), and Online students who completed or are scheduled to complete all of their coursework in the 2024 Academic Year (graduation dates through September 30, 2024) from either a master's or doctoral program, or online nursing program (including post-graduate certificate) are eligible to participate in this ceremony.

What is a hooding ceremony?

A hooding ceremony is a more intimate ceremony to signify the graduate's success in completing his/her master's or doctoral program. Similar to a commencement ceremony, faculty and students are dressed in academic attire. During this ceremony, each graduate is called, and the graduate will walk on stage where his/her faculty advisor will place the hood around his/her neck.

What is a pinning ceremony?

A pinning ceremony is a special event for the nursing community to recognize a new group of nurses into the field. As a unique ceremony to the nursing field, this tradition symbolizes a nursing student's hard work and dedication toward their coursework and clinicals.

When will the ceremony begin?

The South College 2024 Pinning and Hooding Ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. EST. All graduates should arrive and check-in at 1:00 p.m. EST.

How do I obtain my cap and gown?

Upon RSVPing for the ceremony, you will be given a link to order your cap and gown through Jostens.

- Knoxville students will use the following link:
<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1041144/South-College/>
- Online students will use the following link:
<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/3146494/South-College-Online/>
- CBE students will receive a separate email with instructions from a CBE program representative on how to place their cap and gown order.

The deadline to order your cap and gown is **Friday, May 3, 2024**. If you miss this deadline, please contact knoxcommecement@south.edu.

The cost of the cap and gown was covered by your graduation fee and will be shipped directly to your home. Your cap and gown are yours to keep. Please note that caps and gowns usually ship within 5 weeks of the placement of your order.

Please note that you may also order announcements and diploma frames from these websites (South College diploma sizes are 8.5 X 11).

Is this event ticketed?/Do my guests need a ticket to enter the ceremony?

No tickets are required for family and friends to attend. Seating is on a first com, first served basis with doors opening at 1:00 p.m. EST to the public.

What are the expectations and etiquette at these events?

Students are expected to arrive at the South College Parkside campus 30 minutes before their ceremony start time. Upon arrival, there will be South College faculty and staff to provide you with instructions on checking in and other options for photography with your family, friends, and classmates.

During the ceremony please be respectful. This includes:

- Remaining quiet and seated through the conclusion of the ceremony
- Wearing proper attire
 - o Your cap and gown will be worn for these events
 - o Expect warm weather, so plan to wear something lightweight underneath your regalia.
 - o Business casual is a good rule of thumb and black is probably the best color since it will not compete with your gown.
 - o We recommend that you select comfortable footwear, as there will be lots of standing and walking.
- Do not smoke or consume any alcohol on the premises.
- Cellphone ringers must be turned off during the ceremony.

- Photography is allowed.
- No air horns, cow bells, megaphones, or disruptive noisemakers are allowed.

Where should I park for these events?

Parking is available at a variety of locations in the downtown Knoxville area. It is recommended that all students and guests download the Parkopedia application to their smartphone prior to the ceremony, as this application will help those in attendance locate available spots and quickly pay for parking. To download the application, scan the QR code below or visit <https://www.parkopedia.com/>.



One of the closest parking options is the [Locust Street Garage](#) (540 Locust St SW, Knoxville, TN 37902). This garage costs \$1/hour, \$7 max/day. The Locust Street Garage also provides direct access to the Knoxville Convention Center via a skybridge. There are other general downtown Knoxville options.

Will I need my GradPass for this ceremony?

You will not need your GradPass for this event. Your GradPass will be used solely for the commencement ceremony that will take place on Friday, June 14, 2024 at the Knoxville Convention Center.

What do I need to bring with me to the ceremony?

You will want to ensure that you bring your cap and gown to the ceremony with you. We encourage you to take the time once your cap and gown has been delivered to try it on and steam/iron it as well.

Where do I need to report the day of the ceremony?

All graduates will be directed by signage and staff as to where to report upon arrival.

What should I wear under my cap and gown?

Graduates should arrive in business casual attire. Although there is no dress code, the following is recommended:

- **Males**
 - o Dress slacks (black preferred but khakis are also suitable)
 - o Dress shoes

- Dress socks
- Button down shirt
- Tie
- **Females**
 - Conservative dresses
 - Skirts, blouses, and/or dress slacks
 - Flats

Is there a place to leave my personal belongings during the ceremony?

Please leave all personal belongings (purses, jackets, etc.) with a family member or friend prior to arrival, as graduates will not have a way to easily keep track of these items during these events. South College is not responsible for any lost or stolen items left unattended.

How long will this ceremony last?

This ceremony is anticipated to last approximately one and a half hours with an end time around 3:00 p.m. EST.

Is there a dress code for this event for my guests?

For this event, we are aiming for a comfortable yet polished atmosphere. We are asking all in attendance to come in business casual dress attire. ***While jeans, sneakers, and athleisure wear will not be permitted,*** you can opt for smart casual attire such as slacks, skirts, blouses, collared shirts, or dresses. A touch of professionalism paired with personal comfort is the perfect balance.

Please note that all graduates should wear their cap and gown for this event and should follow the guidelines listed above on what to wear under the cap and gown.

How do I obtain my diploma?

South College students receive their diploma directly from Parchment within 2-4 weeks after the completion of their final class. Your diploma will be mailed to the address that is provided on the Application for Graduation directly from Parchment. After graduates complete their program, they will receive 72 hours to confirm the delivery address of their diploma and will also receive a digital diploma within 48 hours of it being ordered. Graduates can track the order of their diploma through their Parchment account at <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/252783/institution>.

How are honors levels calculated?

For students who complete courses prior to May 15, 2024, the final Grade Point Average (GPA) achieved will be used to determine honors level. For students completing courses after May 15, 2024, the GPA earned as of May 15, 2024 will be used to determine honors levels.

What are the various honors levels?

Undergraduate & Graduate Programs:

Summa Cum Laude 3.90 - 4.0 GPA	Purple Cord
Magna Cum Laude 3.75 – 3.89 GPA	Gold Cord
Cum Laude 3.50 – 3.74 GPA	Red Cord

Certificate Programs:

Honors 3.50 – 3.79 GPA	Purple Cord
High Honors 3.80 – 4.0 GPA	Gold Cord

How do I obtain my honors cords?

Honors cords will be distributed after check-in. If you are eligible for honors designation, it will be printed on your check-in card. Honors cords are purchased by the institution for students participating in the commencement ceremony activities only. Cords are considered regalia and are for the sole purpose of recognizing students with academic excellence during the ceremony. They will not be sent to students who do not participate in a ceremony. It is expected that you wear your cords for this ceremony as well as the full commencement ceremony on Friday, June 14, 2024.

How do I obtain my nursing pin?

Nursing pins will be distributed after check-in.

Can I decorate my cap for the ceremony?

Since your cap and gown are yours to keep after the ceremony, we do permit them to be decorated to show off your personal style. Please keep in mind that decorations must be tasteful and professional. Any cap with inappropriate messages, images, or words will not be permitted.

What is the cost to participate in graduation?

Students are responsible for any costs associated with travel to the commencement ceremony. All other costs, including regalia, honors cord, and diploma covers are covered by the campus. Students are assessed a graduation fee.

What if I am a student with a disability?

Graduates requiring assistance or accommodations should indicate their request on the RSVP form. A member from the South College Commencement Team will follow up with you to discuss your needs.

What time do I need to arrive on the day of the commencement ceremony?

Graduates should expect to arrive 30 minutes prior to the ceremony at 1:00 p.m. EST. Upon arrival, graduates will be directed to the check-in tables where additional information will be provided.

Where can I stay in Knoxville if I am traveling from out of town?

South College has booked a block of rooms at the following locations throughout Knoxville to help accommodate our graduates and their families who may be travelling from out of town. Each hotel has a link to provide you with a discounted rate. To receive the discounted rate, all reservations must be booked on or before May 12, 2024.

Hampton Inn & Suites Knoxville Papermill Dr

Address: 601 N Weisgarber Rd, Knoxville, TN 37919

Booking link: <https://group.hamptoninn.com/nf1o08>

Hilton Garden Inn Knoxville Papermill Dr

Address: 6200 Papermill Dr NW, Knoxville, TN 37919

Booking link: <https://group.hiltongardeninn.com/iy22v1>

Courtyard Marriott Knoxville West/Bearden

Address: 250 Brookview Centre Way, Knoxville, TN 37919

Booking link: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1709843886513&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

How can I share the photos I take during the ceremony?

To make it easier for everyone to view and enjoy the photos taken during our Commencement Ceremony week activities, we encourage you to use our official event hashtag:

#SouthCollegeGrad2024. By including this hashtag in your social media posts, you'll not only share your photos with fellow attendees but also contribute to a collective album of cherished moments.

Who should I contact if I need to update my RSVP for this event?

If you should need to update your RSVP including either whether or not you will be attending or the number of guests you anticipate on attending, please contact the South College Commencement Team at knoxcommencement@south.edu.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions regarding the ceremony?

If you have questions regarding the ceremony and day of events, please reach out knoxcommencement@south.edu.