

Graduation FAQs [Undergraduate]

If your question is not answered below, please contact the Office of the Registrar by emailing registrar@centralchristian.edu or calling 620-241-0723.

Diplomas

When will I get my diploma?

Diplomas are mailed 5-6 weeks after the last day of your last class, provided you have no holds. All obligations to the College must be fulfilled before your diploma is mailed or official transcripts provided. If you have a hold, you will be sent a notification from the Office of the Registrar.

I can't wait that long/I have a hold...how do I get proof that I graduated?

Degrees are posted to transcripts within 10 days of the last day of class. As soon as you receive the email notification, you may print an unofficial transcript out of your student portal account or order an official transcript to be sent to whomever you wish. You may also contact the Office of the Registrar to request a degree verification letter, even if you have a hold. The letter will be on official letterhead and state your degree and the date you graduated.

Graduation Requirements

Why do I need to fill out an Intent to Graduate form?

As stated in the College catalog, you must have an Intent to Graduate form on file before we can award your degree or issue a diploma. Whether or not you plan to attend the ceremony, we must have your Intent to Graduate form by December 31st of the academic year in which you graduate* **OR** by the first day of your last class, **whichever comes first**.

How do I know if I can participate in the ceremony?

After you submit your Intent to Graduate form, the Office of the Registrar will send notification of whether or not you are eligible to attend. Three (3) months before the ceremony date, the graduation list is finalized and no one can be added, except by special permission from the Registrar.

What happens if I won't have all my classes done by the ceremony date?

If you are not eligible, you will be moved to the next year's ceremony date. To be eligible to attend, **all** degree requirements must be completed by the day of the ceremony.* **However**, the final eligibility check will be done 4 months prior to this. This means you must be officially registered in all remaining courses at least 4 months before the ceremony date.

**Exception is made for online students whose last course ends within 30 days after the ceremony.*

Honors

I keep hearing about honors. What does that mean?

Students who have a final cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher are awarded graduation honors. A special note will be added to your official transcript and by your name in the graduation program to denote the honor. There are three levels of honors:

Associate degrees: Honor (3.50 – 3.69), High Honor (3.70 – 3.84), Highest Honor (3.85 – 4.00)

Bachelor degrees: Cum Laude (3.50 – 3.69), Magna Cum Laude (3.70 – 3.84), Summa Cum Laude (3.85 – 4.00)

What are honor cords?/Will I get honor cords?

Honor cords are long cords with a tassel at each end and a knot in the middle. They are worn (*over the shoulders with the knot behind the neck*) during graduation to honor the wearer's high scholastic

achievement. We will order honor cords for you if you plan to attend the ceremony and, as of 4 months prior to the ceremony date, your cumulative GPA is 3.50 or higher (an A/B average).

Graduation Weekend

What day is graduation?

Commencement (Graduation Day) occurs on the first Saturday in May.

Where is the graduation ceremony located?

Commencement will be held on the College campus in McPherson, KS.

What is Commencement?

Commencement is the formal name for the graduation ceremony. “Graduation” and “Commencement” are often used interchangeably.

What is Baccalaureate/Ivy Cutting?

This is a special ceremony for the on-campus Senior class that provides one last opportunity to gather as a community, reflect on their time together, and express final thank-yous and goodbyes. It is hosted through the Student Development Office.

At what time do Commencement and the other events start?

Please see the schedule for details (posted 2 months prior to the ceremony date). *If you are trying to book a flight in advance, we recommend flying in the night before to accommodate any events that might be scheduled in the morning.*

Will the graduation ceremony be streamed live on the internet?

Yes. There will be a streaming link available for Commencement. We will post this link to our website a few days beforehand. Baccalaureate and Ivy Cutting will **not** be streamed.

Can I attend virtually?

Yes. Select the virtual option on your Intent to Graduate form or contact the Office of the Registrar at least 1 month before the ceremony date for details.

Is there a limit on how many guests I can bring?/Do I need tickets?

Commencement – No. There is no limit and we do not issue tickets.

Baccalaureate/Ivy Cutting (on-campus Senior students only) – Yes. Please RSVP to Missy Mayse in the Student Development Office no later than 2 weeks prior to the event

Will my family be able to take pictures during graduation?

We will provide a professional photographer to take pictures during graduation, including one of each graduate receiving their diploma. Pictures will be posted online and available to download free of charge by the end of May.

Cap & Gown

Do I need to order/pay for my cap and gown (regalia)?

No. As long as you are attending a ceremony (either in-person OR virtually), we will order your regalia. The cost has already been accounted for within the regular tuition/fees.

When can I get my cap and gown?

The Registrar's Office will announce a timeframe for students living on campus or in the area to pick up their regalia. All other students may pick up regalia the day of graduation (the pick-up time will be notated in the schedule – *posted 2 months prior to the ceremony date*).

What if my robe doesn't fit?

Contact the Registrar's Office or find a staff member on the day of graduation and we will look through our collection of unused extra robes. We are usually able to find one that fits.

Which side of the cap does the tassel go on?

It goes on the right. "It's on the right until you've left." Towards the end of the ceremony, you will be instructed to move your tassel from the right to the left.

Can I decorate my cap?

Yes. As long as it is appropriately themed, you may decorate it however you wish. We reserve the right to confiscate any cap deemed to be offensive.

Can I wear my own personal stole (kente, country flag, etc) or other item?

Yes. You may wear cords, pins, medals, or stoles displaying affiliations that are important to you. The most common are for awards, honor societies, military service, and country/ethnic connections. Honor graduates will receive cords and current/former U.S. military members will receive a stole from the College. Certain College groups may also provide items to their members. All other items will need to be purchased by the student.

What should I wear?

Graduation and Baccalaureate are formal academic events and the graduation cap, gown, and tassel are required. Underneath your gown and for other graduation events, we recommend slacks, collared shirts, blouses, and nice dresses/skirts. Avoid T-shirts, shorts, and flip-flops. Women are advised to keep skirts/dresses knee-length or longer and wear low heels as there will be a fair amount of walking. Keep in mind that you will also be wearing a black robe and Kansas weather in May is usually windy and warm.

Travel Information

What hotels are available in McPherson?

There are several hotels in McPherson. For contact information, you can go to www.visitmcpherson.com. At some hotels, if you mention you are coming for an event at the college, they will provide a discount. If you have trouble finding a room in McPherson, you can also try Salina, Newton, or Hutchinson, all of which are within a 30-40 min drive.

Where is the nearest airport?

The nearest national airport is located in Wichita, KS (ICT), approximately one hour south of McPherson. There are also direct connections from Denver and Chicago to Salina, KS (SLN), approximately 40 min north of McPherson.

Where is the nearest bus station?

A Greyhound bus stop is located in McPherson at Love's Travel Stop (other stops 30-40 min away in Hutchinson, Salina, and Newton).

Where is the nearest train station?

Amtrak's Southwest Chief route goes through Hutchinson, KS (HUT) and Newton, KS (NEW) (both 30 min south of McPherson).

Is there a taxi service?

There are several cab/shuttle companies in each town and cars can be rented at the Wichita airport. We advise doing an internet search and contacting the company for availability before you arrive.