

Graduation FAQs (Undergraduate)

If your question is not answered below, please contact the Office of the Registrar by emailing registrar@centralchristian.edu

Diplomas:

When will I receive my diploma?

Diplomas are mailed 3-4 weeks after your degree has been conferred, provided you have no holds. All obligations to the College must be fulfilled before your diploma is mailed or official transcripts provided. If a hold is identified on your account, you will be notified by the Office of Registrar.

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

After you have completed your degree program, you may request a copy of your unofficial transcript, degree audit, and a degree verification letter (on official letterhead stating your degree and date of graduation), via email to the Office of the Registrar.

Graduation Requirements

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

CCCK's policy requires that you must have an intent to Graduate form on file before we can award your degree or issue a diploma. This is required whether or not you plan to attend the ceremony. You can access this form from your Advisor and submit to the Office of the Registrar prior to the published due dates.

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 participate in the ceremony. Please keep in mind that once the Graduation list has been finalized, additional candidates must seek special permission from the Registrar.

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

A student must be on tract to complete all degree requirements by the commencement date. *However, online students whose final course ends within 30 days after the commencement ceremony are also eligible.* Students who do not believe that they will meet the criteria by the ceremony date, can file an appeal to the Faculty Senate for permission to participate. The student must speak with their academic advisor about the desire to participate and the advisor will notify the Registrars' Office of this request and initial the appeal process. The Faculty Senate will approve or deny the request based on the information provided in the formal appeal. Please note that you will not receive your diploma until you have completed all program requirements and your degree has been conferred.

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), and 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 rope style strands about 60 inches long with a knot tied in the middle and tassel at end. Honor cords are worn (over the shoulders with a knot behind the neck). The honor cord denotes the students' academic degree and honor.

Graduation Weekend

What day is graduation?

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

What is commencement?

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

What is Baccalaureate/Senior Dinner?

This is a special ceremony that provides one last opportunity for the on-campus Senior class to gather as a community, reflect on their time together, and express final thank-yous and goodbyes. It is hosted by the Student Life 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 Senior Dinner 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/Senior Dinner (on-campus Senior students only) – Yes. Please RSVP to Missy Mayse in the Student Life 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 his or her 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 will I receive my cap and gown?

The Registrar's Office will announce a timeframe for students living on campus or in the area to pick up 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?

The tassel goes on the right. "It hangs on the right until you've left." Toward 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/form 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, visit <https://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 may also try Salina, Newton, or Hutchinson, all of which are within a 30 – 40-minute 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 minutes north of McPherson.

Where is the nearest bus station?

A Greyhound bus stop is in McPherson at Love's Travel Stop (other stops 30 – 40 minutes 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 minutes 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.