

Planning for a memorable and happy graduation day

Graduation day can be an exciting and nervewracking experience. Steeped in tradition, graduation signifies the end of the line for academia for many students.

Knowing what to expect during the commencement ceremony and being prepared can help tame nerves and ensure the day moves along as smoothly as possible.

Get clothing set
Choose your attire several days before the graduation ceremony. Try on the clothing that will be worn beneath the graduation gown along with the gown to ensure everything fits well. Collared shirts look classic beneath the gown for both female and male graduates. However, schools may have their own dress requirements that should be followed. Iron or have the dry cleaners press all items so they are crisp and free of wrinkles.

It's a good idea to wear flat shoes for the commencement ceremony. Whether traversing the football field or the school auditorium, flat, comfortable shoes will be easy to walk in and help graduates avoid slipping or tripping.

Fuel up
Depending on the size of the graduating class, commencement ceremonies can take a few hours. Make sure to eat a hearty breakfast and be well-hydrated prior to leaving the house. If possible, bring along a small bottle of water. Outdoor ceremonies or those in stuffy auditoriums can mean contending with sun and warmth. Sipping water can prevent overheating.

Leave travel time
Much of the community will be en route to the graduation, making for congested roads and difficult parking situations. Do not add to nerves by rushing around. Give yourself an extra half hour or so to arrive at the destination and get settled. Suggest an early departure for guests as well, as the parking lot or on-street parking will fill up quickly.

Expect limited tickets
Many schools have space restrictions and can only accommodate a predetermined number of attendees. Tickets may be limited to a specific number per graduate. Extend a courtesy to those who cannot be invited by explaining the ticket policy. Find a way to honor loved ones in another way, such as during a toast at an after-party or with personalized photo gifts.

Practice ceremony etiquette
The school will set the tone for the commencement ceremony.

Formal schools may have a more buttoned-up atmosphere, while other schools embrace livelier traditions. Heed the direction of faculty, as there will be plenty of time to let loose after the ceremony.

Make sure that you give all graduates the respect they deserve by turning off cell phones. In addition, remain seated until the ceremony is over and

allow each graduate to get individualized recognition and take photos without feeling rushed.

Wear academic dress properly

Graduation caps are worn flat on the head, parallel to the floor and with the front point centered on the forehead.

The gown should be free

of jewelry and flowers. Some schools will adorn caps and gowns with academic regalia, while others will not. Reserve your graduation party as a chance to personalize if

you so desire.

Graduation is full of tradition. Planning for the day can tame nerves and make it an enjoyable experience. TF184891

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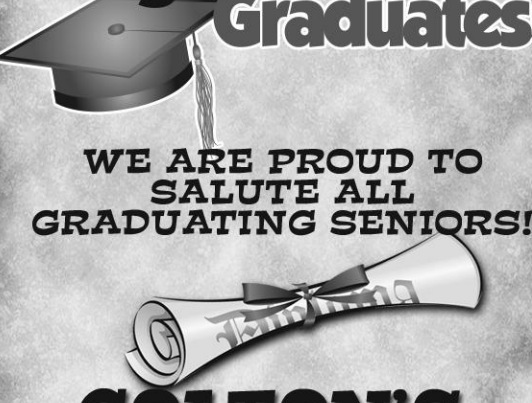
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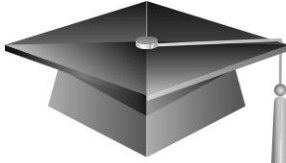
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