

If your question is not answered below, please contact the Office of the Registrar by submitting the form on the main graduation page or calling 620-241-0723 ex. 116.

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. The notification will tell you who to contact to resolve the hold.

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.****

**Academic years for graduation run June to May*

***If you missed this deadline please contact the Office of the Registrar*

Do I have to pay the Graduation Fee if I don't attend the ceremony?

Yes. All graduates are charged the full Graduation Fee, regardless of ceremony attendance.

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?

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. The Registrar's Office will send final eligibility notifications no later than 3 months before the ceremony date. If you are not eligible, you will be moved to the next year's graduation list.

**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 Commencement 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

Where is the graduation ceremony located?

The Commencement ceremony 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.

At what time do Commencement and the other events start?

Please see the schedule for details (posted by 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.*

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 (on-campus students only) – No. There is no limit and we do not issue tickets.

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

What is Baccalaureate?

Baccalaureate is an awards ceremony for on-campus students, usually occurring the evening before Commencement.

What is 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.

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.

Will my family be able to take pictures during graduation?

Yes. The front row of seats at Commencement will be left empty so that family/friends can take pictures of you on the stage. **However**, we ask that they return to their seat immediately afterwards so other graduates' families/friends also have the opportunity.

What should I wear?

We recommend that men wear a collared shirt with dark trousers and women wear comfortable shoes. Keep in mind that you will also be wearing a black robe and Kansas weather can turn quite warm in the afternoon. Keep an eye on the forecast and dress in breathable layers, as the inside and outside temperatures may be noticeably different.

Cap & Gown

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

No. As long as you have marked on your Intent to Graduate form that you are attending a ceremony, we will order your regalia.

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 by 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 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 not on the left 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.

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.