

Jefferson State

Community College

2026 Commencement Guide

The Annual Graduation Ceremony will be held on **Friday, May 8, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.**

Degrees and Certificates will be conferred at the ceremony. The ceremony is expected to last 2 hours.

Who is eligible to participate in the ceremony?

All pending graduates for the 2026 spring semester, as well as all graduates from the 2025 summer and fall semesters are encouraged to participate. This ceremony will be livestreamed –

<https://www.youtube.com/live/RsPBgUB4xzA>.

● LIVE

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Confirm Your Participation

Register to participate in the 2026 May Graduation Ceremony by **Friday, April 24, 2026**. The **priority deadline is April 10, 2026**. Participation noted after then is subject to availability.

Register

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Obtain a Cap & Gown Set



Online orders will be accepted from now until **April 8, 2026**, <https://oakhallcg.com/pages/jeffersonstate>. **Online orders will include a \$17.95 shipping charge.** You may also purchase your cap, gown, hood and tassel from the Jefferson or Shelby-Hoover Campus Bookstore between **April 9, 2026** and **May 1, 2026**. The set costs \$105.96 plus tax. The fee for an extra tassel is \$8.98 plus tax.

Graduation Honors

Students must have completed a minimum of 24 semester credit hours of non-developmental courses at Jefferson State to be eligible for graduation honors.

The fee for each honor cord is \$19.98 plus tax. All fees must be paid at the time you place your order. Honor stoles purchased from Phi Theta Kappa may be worn. Extra caps, gowns, hoods, and tassels **will not** be available at the ceremony.

Honor Cords

White:	3.5 or higher GPA
Gold:	PTK Member
Green and Gold:	Sigma Kappa Delta Member
Purple:	Sigma Chi Eta Member

Bookstore hours are posted online:

<https://www.jeffersonstate.edu/bookstores/>

Personalized Announcements

Personalized graduation announcements and diploma frames can be ordered online, <https://collegegrad.herffjones.com/>.

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Guest Policy and Safety Protocols



Graduates may invite up to **four** guests. A ticket is required for each guest. Tickets may be obtained from the Pioneer Bookstore beginning **April 9, 2026** on our Jefferson and Shelby Campuses. Students who purchase their cap and gown set online will be notified on when to pick up guest tickets from the Graduation Office at our Jefferson Campus or Enrollment Services on the Shelby Campus.

Please take extra precautions for friends/family who may plan to wait outside since the weather can be hot at this time of year. Guests may not enter the theatre until 12:30 p.m.

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Arrival - Friday, May 8, 2026

There is no rehearsal. Please follow these directions carefully!

11:30 a.m.	Graduates check in dressed in cap & gown
12:30 p.m.	All graduates seated in order
12:45 p.m.	Special Welcome & Lineup
1:00 p.m.	Line marches to auditorium
1:30 p.m.	Ceremony begins

Alabama Theatre is located at
1817 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203



Photos

[Stacy Jones Photography](#) will take graduate portraits in April on campus at 9 am – 12 pm and 3 pm – 6:30 pm. He will also set up at Commencement in the foyer. **Bring your payment with you. They accept cash, check, or credit cards.** Portraits taken at Commencement must be completed **by 12:30 pm.**

- April 17, 2026 - Jefferson Campus
Fitzgerald Student Center, 4th Floor, room 400
- April 24, 2026 - Shelby-Hoover Campus
Judy Merritt Health Science Building, 1st Floor, room 156

The college will take photographs before, during, and after the ceremony, which may be used in promotion of the College.

Diploma Scrolls

While on stage, you will receive a commemorative diploma scroll signifying the day's event. Your e-diploma will be available to you free of charge about four weeks after the semester ends, you will receive an e-mail and text notification with instructions to access your diploma.

Personal Attire and Academic Apparel Do's and Don'ts

- Do not iron your gown. Simply steam the wrinkles or hang it up.
- The mortarboard (cap) must rest flatly on the head with the point coming directly in the center of the forehead. Tassels must be worn on the right side of the mortarboard.
- You *are* allowed to decorate your cap!
- Only official honor cords and organization cords are allowed. This includes PTK, SCE, and SKD and honor cords (white).
- Men are requested to wear dark (black or navy) pants, white shirt, and optional tie. Please wear dark shoes and socks and no sandals.
- Women are requested to wear dark dresses or pants (cool fabric), dark low heel or flat shoes. No high collars or bows at the neck. Also, no corsages or jewelry on the robe.
- All valuables should be left with family members or guests prior to arriving at check-in. Do not leave purses, keys, or other personal items unattended. The college and the Alabama Theatre are not responsible for items left at the event.
- Cell phones and mobile devices should be turned off.
- Improper attire, signs, and insignia will be addressed or removed by any staff member and marshals.
- Face masks may be required for graduates and guests.

Printed Programs

Commencement programs with a full listing of student names, hometown, and degrees will be distributed at the ceremony to graduates and guests. If you do not wish for your name to be listed in the program, you must contact the Graduation Office to request that your information be excluded by **April 10, 2026.**

Disability Access

Accessible seating is available for guests on a first come, first serve basis. Sign language interpreters will be providing services during the graduation ceremony. For questions about disability-related accommodations, please contact the ADA Accommodations Office, ada@jeffersonstate.edu or [205-856-6077](tel:205-856-6077).

Parking

Parking is limited around the Alabama Theatre, so please plan to arrive early to secure adequate parking. We highly recommend carpooling. Central Parking has several lots around the venue.

Additional Details

Note: Helium balloons are **NOT** permitted inside the theatre.

If you are unable to participate in the commencement ceremony *after you have registered and/or purchased your cap and gown*, please e-mail the Graduation Office, graduation@jeffersonstate.edu to have your name removed from the marching list. Contact the Bookstore for information regarding a refund for the cap and gown by 10 a.m., **May 6, 2026.** A refund will not be given if you do not notify the Bookstore by this time. A receipt is **required**, and the cap and gown set must be in the same condition as they were when purchased.

Due to the generosity of the Jefferson State Community College Foundation, a limited number of caps, gowns, hoods, and tassels can be loaned to students who have a verified financial need. If you plan to participate in the graduation ceremony and believe you might qualify, please contact graduation@jeffersonstate.edu for additional information.

Congratulations again on your achievement!
We look forward to celebrating with you in this milestone!

