***Graduate School Commencement Ceremony***

***Questions and Answers***

**Where and when will the ceremony be held?**

Generally, Commencement takes place in the Givens Performing Arts Center (GPAC), the first Friday of May (for spring graduation) and the first Friday of December (for fall graduation). The ceremony begins at 7:00 pm.

* NOTE: **All guests should be seated by 6:45 as the doors will be closed for the processional at that time.**
* NOTE: **Covid-19 pandemic may require modifications to the traditional ceremony.** These modifications, including format (drive-thru, virtual, etc.), will be announced as promptly as possible to allow participants to plan accordingly.

**When, where, and how do I line up?**

You will line up at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Gym in the Jones Athletic Center. Please be on time to line up, clear up pronunciations, and receive information about hooding and the process. You will walk from the gym to GPAC prior to the ceremony. Let us know if you need have special needs for this walk.

**How many tickets can I get?**

Usually, we give out 4-8 tickets per graduating student. Contact the Graduate School to find out the specific number of tickets allotted for your specific graduation ceremony. If you do not need/want all tickets, please leave some for those who would like them.

**Where can I get my reserved graduation tickets?**

If you did not pick up your tickets during Grad Finale (where tickets, caps, gowns, and hoods, were distributed) you can pick them up from The Graduate School (Hickory Hall North) **by no later the last day of classes** (i.e., before the finals week).

**Can I have my reserved tickets mailed to me?**

Yes, if you are a distance education student, send an email to Emily Oxendine ([emily.oxendine@uncp.edu](mailto:emily.oxendine@uncp.edu)) to request your tickets to be mailed to the address indicated in the email.

**Can someone pick up my reserved tickets for me?**

Yes, you may designate someone to pick up your tickets by providing him/her with your written and signed permission which indicates his/her name, and have that person to bring a picture I.D.

**How do I get extra tickets?**

Extra tickets, if available, will be distributed **one day before the graduation** on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 8:00 a.m. You may designate someone else to pick up your tickets by providing that person with written permission (see item above). Call in advance to see if tickets are remaining, but they will not be held.

**Will handicapped seating be available for guests?**

Yes. If needed, please inform the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC): phone/voice: 910-521-6695; fax: 910-521-6891; email: arc@uncp.edu. Also, inform the University Marshals when you arrive for graduation.

**Do children require tickets?**

Yes, children must have tickets unless they are small enough to be held for the entire ceremony and do not use a seat.

**What should I wear?**

There is no dress code, but dress for a formal ceremony. Consider what will show above and below your gown.

**Do we walk across the stage individually?**

Yes. Your name will be called, you will walk across stage, be hooded, have your picture taken as you receive your diploma cover and shake hands with the Chancellor, and proceed to shake hands with others as you cross the stage.

**When do I get my official diploma?**

Diplomas will be mailed in July (if you graduated in May) and February (if you graduated in December).

**How long will the ceremony last?**

Approximately an hour and fifteen minutes. Please plan to bring your guests to the **reception that will be held in the University Center Annex immediately following the ceremony.**

**Please contact The Graduate School (910-521-6271) if you have additional questions.**