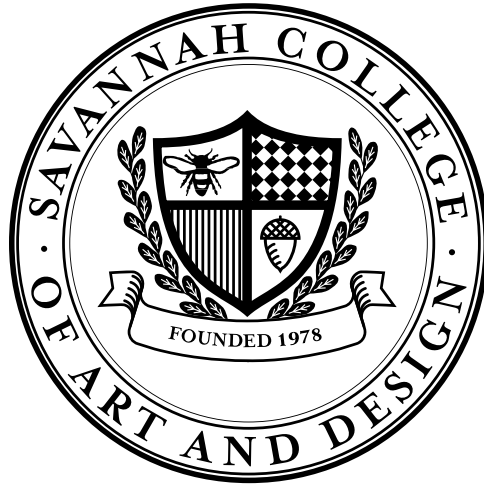




— SCAD COMMENCEMENT 2026 —

FAMILY GUIDE



Congratulations to the SCAD Class of 2026!

Commencement has always been a special occasion at SCAD. It provides an opportunity for the university community to celebrate your student's artistic and academic achievements. To make it a memorable moment for our graduating students and their families, we are planning commencement with singular care and innovation.

We know you are just as excited as we are to celebrate our new class of SCAD graduates! Please take a few minutes to read through this information so that the whole family will be ready for the big day.

SO YOUR STUDENT IS GRADUATING...

The final year is an exciting — and occasionally stressful — time for students. All the hard work your student has invested over the last few years culminates in final projects, capstone classes, and preparing to launch future careers. It can be easy for busy students to overlook something.

Undergraduate graduation requirements

- » Undergraduate degree candidates must earn a minimum of 180 hours of appropriate credit in an approved major program of study.
- » Candidates must earn an overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better, as well as a 3.0 or better in their major (for B.F.A. students) or concentration (for B.A. students).
- » Students pursuing a minor must earn an average of 2.0 or better in their minor program.
- » The final 45 hours of any degree program must be completed at SCAD.
- » Specific senior show requirements are available from each department chair and from the director of exhibitions.

Graduate student graduation requirements

- » Graduate degree candidates must earn a minimum of 45 hours for an M.A. and 90 hours for an M.F.A. of appropriate credit in an approved major program of study.
- » Candidates must earn an overall cumulative and major grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- » The final 45 hours of any degree program must be completed at SCAD.

Application for graduation

All students are required to complete an online graduation application through MySCAD > Resources tab > SCAD Student Forms channel. It is recommended that students submit their application two quarters before completing their degree requirements. Students must include an expected date of graduation and receive approval from the graduation auditor for their school/major.

Students should also specify the name they want printed on their diploma and the address where they wish to have it mailed. Printed diplomas will be mailed 4-5 weeks after the graduate receives their digital diploma email from SCAD's partner, Parchment. Once your graduate receives the email notification, they will have 72 hours to update their mailing address in Parchment, if needed.

Students must submit their graduation application regardless of their intention to participate in the commencement ceremony for their graduating class.

Students who complete all degree requirements during the preceding fall or winter quarters or the spring or summer quarters of that year will participate in the spring commencement ceremony. For example, students who complete their degrees in the Fall 2025, Winter 2026, Spring 2026, or Summer 2026 quarters will be eligible to participate

in the Spring 2026 commencement ceremonies. Fall 2026 graduates would join in the Spring 2027 event.

Review the graduation plan

Late in junior year or early in the final year is a good time for students to meet with their success adviser to review their graduation plan one last time and make any necessary adjustments.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE GRADUATION

Mark your calendar

Commencement dates are posted at scad.edu/calendar/academic for each SCAD location.

Caps and gowns

Students are encouraged to order their cap and gown starting in the winter quarter. More information is available from [Jostens](#) including links to order. The complete bachelor's degree package (cap, gown, tassel, and academic hood) typically costs around US\$100. The complete master's degree package (cap, gown, tassel, academic hood, and degree cord) typically costs around US\$115. Individual items like an additional tassel can be purchased separately. A cap, gown, hood, and tassel are required for students participating in the commencement ceremonies. The deadline to order a cap and gown is Monday, April 6, 2026. After that date, orders must be placed in person at Ex Libris while supplies last.

Optional regalia

Optional, non-academic stoles, and more, are available to purchase through [Jostens](#), the university's cap and gown supplier. These stoles recognize achievements and interests, including military service, LGBTQIA+, and more. Only those stoles obtained through the university's official supplier or awarded by the university may be worn during the ceremony.

Class rings, graduation announcements, diploma frames, and grad gifts

Many families celebrate their students' achievements with graduation announcements and a class ring. These items are available to order through the university's official partner, [Jostens](#).

Diploma frames can also be purchased at [Ex Libris](#), the university's bookstore. Ex Libris offers a wide array of unique SCAD grad and SCAD alumni gifts, signs, and décor.

PLANNING FOR THE BIG DAY

The schedule of ceremonies will be posted at scad.edu/ commencement early in the winter quarter.

SCAD Savannah Commencement | Friday, May 29, 2026
Savannah Convention Center
One International Drive, Hutchinson Island | Savannah, GA

SCAD Atlanta Commencement | Saturday, May 30, 2026
Gateway Center Arena
2330 Convention Center Concourse | College Park, GA

Tickets

The number of guest tickets varies yearly and is determined by several factors, including the number of graduates and venue size. Ticket numbers are usually announced at scad.edu/commencement during the winter quarter. Graduates participating in the ceremony do not need a ticket.

Livestream of ceremonies

All SCAD commencement ceremonies will be livestreamed so that our students' loved ones around the globe can celebrate with them. On the day of the event, links to each ceremony's livestream will be posted on scad.edu/commencement.

Special seating accommodations

Accessible guest seating is available. Email events@scad.edu to request more information.

Commencement meeting

All graduates must watch a recorded information session a few weeks before the ceremony. This session will include important details concerning the ceremony itself and what graduates need to know to come prepared. Remind your graduate to look for emails regarding this info session and to be sure to watch it.

Travel

If you'll be traveling for commencement, you'll want to book accommodations well ahead of time — hotels and rentals book up months in advance.

Dining

If you have a specific restaurant at which your graduate will want to celebrate, or you are planning to host an event for a number of friends and family members, you'll want to make those arrangements as early as possible. Restaurant reservations may be hard to come by at the last minute if you don't have flexible options.

DAY OF THE CEREMONY

What time should we plan to arrive?

Graduates typically need to arrive 90 minutes before their ceremony starts. Doors will open for guests around this same time.

Where will we park?

On-site parking is available, and graduates and family members are encouraged to ride together. Rideshares are an alternative option for arriving. Details about parking specific to each location will be shared on scad.edu/commencement closer to the event date.

What should we wear?

Graduates are encouraged to dress nicely. This is an important event, and professional attire is appropriate. Recommendations include dark dress pants, a skirt or dress, a button-down shirt and tie or a blouse, and dark-colored shoes. Low-heeled, well-fitting shoes are highly recommended to prevent tripping on the stairs and stage.

Family members are encouraged to dress appropriately for this special occasion. Still, they should also consider

the weather forecast and warm outdoor temperatures. At the same time, indoor venues may be chilly, so layering is recommended.

What can I bring?

Large bags — including but not limited to backpacks, suitcases, large camera bags, and large purses — are not allowed in the venue. All bags, purses, and packages are subject to inspection before entry. We encourage guests to visit their venue's website for specific bag policies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted.

What should we expect when we arrive?

To ensure safety, all ceremony guests will be required to pass through a metal detector or wand. All bags, purses, and packages are subject to inspection before entry to the venue. Strollers will not be permitted in the seating area and must be left in a designated location.

How long should we expect each ceremony to last?

In Savannah, the Presidential Conferment of Degrees ceremony, which lasts around one hour, is where all graduates are recognized for their achievement, and degrees are formally conferred upon them by the President of the university and a representative of the Board of Trustees. Each Presentation of Degrees ceremony, in which graduates' names are read as they walk across the stage, should last no more than two and a half hours.

In Atlanta, both components are combined into a single Presidential Conferment and Presentation of Degrees ceremony, which should last approximately two hours.

AFTER GRADUATION

When can my graduate expect to receive their diploma?

During the ceremony, your graduate will be handed a university diploma cover containing a congratulatory letter from President Wallace. Printed diplomas will be mailed four to five weeks after graduates receive their digital diploma from Parchment, the university's diploma partner. Once your graduate receives the email notification, they will have 72 hours to update their mailing address in Parchment, if needed.

Can my graduate continue to use SCAD career and alumni success resources to secure employment?

Graduates can take advantage of the university's career support services for their entire careers. After all, "alumni" is right there in the name! Career advisers, workshops, and many online career resources are available to SCAD alumni for as long as needed. Recent graduates are especially encouraged to continue working with their career adviser until that first job is secured.

My graduate has a job!

Congratulations! Encourage your graduate to let their career adviser know of their employment, or email careers@scad.edu, so that we can celebrate their success. We love to follow the careers of our alumni and watch as they become active members of the vast SCAD alumni network.
