



Graduation: FAQ for 2023 Candidates

- **How can I be sure I will graduate?**

Students should check their Chowan email for any updates or information about graduation requirements. Emails will be sent out before 5pm on May 5th confirming graduation.

- **What is the Commencement schedule?**

Saturday, May 6th, 2022:

7:30 Rehearsal – North-side (left) parking lot at the Hawks Athletic Center - **casual clothes**

9:00 Final Line-up – North-side (left) parking lot at the Hawks Athletic Center – **in cap and gown**

10:00 Graduation Exercises Begin

Any student not in line at 9:00 will not be allowed to participate in graduation.

- **Where is graduation held?**

Graduation exercises will be held in the Hawks Athletic Center (757 Union St, Murfreesboro, NC 27855)

- **What parking is available?**

Students should park on the main campus and walk to Hawks Athletic Center. There will be a limited number of handicapped parking spaces available in the Hawks Athletic Center parking areas. Security will direct drivers who need to drop off individuals who are not able to walk from designated parking areas.

- **Are tickets required?**

Tickets are required and will be handed out with caps and gowns. Students will be allowed 10 tickets each for family and friends. Children three and under do not require tickets but must be held in the lap of an adult. Seating will open at 8:30 a.m.

- **What seating is available?**

Hawks Athletic Center will be open for seating at 8:30 a.m. Seating will be filled without specific reservations. Wheelchair accessible seating will be provided.

- **When will I receive my diploma?**

Students will be handed blank diploma covers on stage. The diplomas themselves will be distributed in the back hall of the Hawks Athletic Center after the ceremony.

- **Where do I get my cap and gown?**

Caps and gowns will be available for pick up during the second week of April. More specific information will be released at a later date.

- **What about meals on graduation day?**

The cafeteria will not be open on Graduation Day.

- **What is the proper etiquette for the cap and tassel?**

Chowan graduates wear black tassels, representing the bachelor's degree. Chowan University graduates do not move the tassel from one side of their cap to the other at graduation. The tassel remains on the right front block at all times. Gentlemen remove their caps for prayers, the national anthem, and the alma mater. Decoration of caps is permitted.

- **Graduation Cap Guidelines**

Chowan University will continue to permit the decoration of caps at the commencement ceremony. Graduation is a dignified celebration of the achievement of all our Chowan graduates, as such, it must project respect for the institution, the guests, and for each graduate. These guidelines, developed by the Office of the Provost, must be followed for any graduate wishing to decorate their cap:

- **Ceremony Guidelines**

- The decoration must be appropriate for the dignity of the ceremony.
- Only the flat, top area of the Chowan University provided graduation cap may be decorated.
- 3-D designs, hanging decorations, bows, ribbons, flowers and lights are prohibited.
- Dancing and physical theatrics are prohibited due to the potential for injuries that may occur.
- Obscene, lewd, or profane language is not permitted.
- Any form of hate speech or animosity towards any group is not permitted.
- References to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, or sex are not permitted.
- Any wording that is disrespectful to Chowan University, faculty/staff, or students is prohibited.
- Cap decorations must be consistent with the Chowan University Student Handbook guidelines.
- The academic gown may not be decorated.
- Only those undergraduates who have achieved an academic honor (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, cum laude); members of an academic honor society, the Honors College, the Chowan Fellows, and Greek organizations; or Blue Cord seniors are entitled to wear special regalia at commencement:

Juniors/Seniors - Alpha Chi
First-Year Students - Alpha Lambda Delta
Biology – Beta Beta Beta
History - Phi Alpha Theta
Education - Kappa Delta Pi
Psychology - Psi Chi
Business Administration - Sigma Beta Delta
Phi Beta Lambda
Criminal Justice - Alpha Phi Sigma
English - Sigma Tau Delta
Mathematics and Science– Sigma Zeta
Religion - Theta Alpha Kappa
Social Sciences - Pi Gamma Mu
Art - Kappa Pi
Physical Education – Phi Epsilon Kappa
Music – Pi Kappa Lambda
First Generation Students – Alpha Alpha Alpha
Honors College
Chowan Fellows
Leadership Scholars
Student Government Officers
Athletes - Chi Alpha Sigma
Greek - Order of Omega
Student Athletes
Blue Cord Campaign
Greek Organizations
SNCAE

PLEASE NOTE - No other organization or honor has been officially sanctioned by the University to wear special regalia.

This policy is strictly enforced.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines could result in a student's removal from the commencement ceremony.

- **What is proper attire other than the cap and gown?**

This is a formal ceremony. Dress clothes are appropriate. All candidates should wear dress shoes – no flip-flops, no brightly colored athletic shoes (all black are acceptable), etc. Shoes with high heels are **not** recommended since walking up the steps and across the stage may be challenging. Dresses are suggested for women; white shirt and tie for men. Caps and gowns are black so dark pants are desirable for men. Candidates whose attire is deemed inappropriate may be pulled from the lineup.

- **When is the final senior meeting about graduation?**

Friday, April 28th at 4:00 pm, the Provost will host a mandatory meeting with the prospective graduating senior students at Vaughan Auditorium (Marks Hall)

- **Will I get a graduation photograph? Can my parents photograph me as I walk across the stage?**

Grad Images, a professional photographer, is contracted by the University to take graduation photos during the Commencement Ceremony. They will contact each graduate directly about purchasing copies of this photo. Personal photography is allowed from the seating, but will not be allowed within the roped area. The ceremony will be available on livestream from the Chowan.edu webpage.

- **What about ringing the bell?**

Following Chowan tradition, seniors will ring the bell to signify the completion of their academic career at Chowan after the senior banquet .

- **What about my graduation brick?**

These are the bricks set into the sidewalk leading up to and around the gazebo. Your brick will be ordered according to the name submitted on your graduation application. These are usually installed by the gazebo in the following academic year.

- **When will we rehearse?**

Mandatory rehearsal will be at 7:30 AM on the morning of graduation in the north-side (left) parking lot of the Hawks Athletic Center.

Anyone not present and on time for the rehearsal will not be expected to participate in the Graduation Exercises.

Final line-up for the processional will be at 9:00 AM.

If you have questions, please call the Registrar's Office. We are all hoping that Graduation Day will be a memorable day, launching you into your post-Chowan careers. Best wishes and good luck always!

The Registrar's Office – registrar@chowan.edu – 252-398-6263