Frequently Asked Questions about Graduation:

When can I order my Cap and Gown?
From March 15 through March 29, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (If you work during these hours, call Saria Cardoza at (760) 355-6456.)

How much does it cost?
$30, which includes: 1.) Cap and Gown  2.) Admission tickets for you to give to your family or friends,  3.) Reception after the ceremony for the graduates and their guests.

When is graduation?
The commencement ceremony will be Saturday, June 12, 2010. (Graduates must arrive an hour before the ceremony begins.)

How long does the ceremony last?
Usually a little less than two hours -- but will vary depending on how many graduates there are, and how long the guest speaker speaks.

When is rehearsal?
Graduation rehearsal will be at 2 p.m., Friday, June 11, 2010, and will last less than an hour. Graduates must attend rehearsal if they wish to participate in commencement on Saturday.

How many tickets will I get?
We won’t know until after the graduates order their caps and gowns how many are actually planning to go through the ceremony. (The ceremony is in the gym, which has limited capacity.) If you order a cap and gown, you will receive another letter in May giving more details on tickets, the rehearsal, and the ceremony. Based on previous experience, we estimate that graduates participating in the commencement ceremony can expect to receive between five and six tickets each to give to their guests. (Everyone must have a ticket, including children. On the day of graduation, no one will be allowed inside the gym without a ticket.)

Can I get extra tickets?
Sorry. The college almost always uses up all available tickets. Your best chance is if you have a friend who is also graduating who doesn’t need all of his/her tickets.

When will I get my cap and gown and my tickets?
Tickets will be distributed with the caps and gowns. You will receive another letter in May telling you the dates you can pick them up.

Can I supply my own gown, from high school or somewhere else?
NO! All graduates who wish to participate in the commencement ceremony must use the gowns provided by the college. Gowns can vary in colors, materials, and styles; it would look very unprofessional for us to have graduates marching who did not match.

Can I keep my cap and gown?
No. The $30 fee is a rental fee. The cap and gown will need to be turned in immediately after the ceremony on Saturday, June 12, 2010 (you’ll be able to keep your tassel). More details will be given during rehearsal.

Will there be a photographer?
Yes. The college brings in a professional photographer who will take a photo of each graduate receiving his/her diploma. He will also be available to take photos of graduates and their families in a decorated area after the ceremony, if you choose. You will not need to pay that day. Photos proofs will be available on the internet and no longer by mail. There is no obligation -- if you don’t like the proof, you don’t have to order. You and your guests may also take your own photos before, during, and after graduation; however, guests will not be able to get very close to the stage during the actual ceremony.

Can my family videotape graduation?
Yes. However, there are no special places reserved for still or video photographers; they must photograph from their seat, and they may not block the view of any other guests. NO TRIPODS ALLOWED!

Why don't you allow balloons in the gym?
Balloons block the view of other guests in the audience. The gym is very crowded during the ceremony; your family should leave balloons and other gifts at home or in the car, to give to you AFTER the ceremony.

One of my guests is in a wheelchair; will there be a handicapped seating area?
Yes. If you expect to have a guest attending the ceremony in a wheelchair, or who otherwise needs special accommodation, please tell us (contact Claudia Aguilar) in advance so that we can plan sufficient space for them. This area will be pointed out at graduation rehearsal. Also please let us know in advance if you, the graduate, need assistance or special accommodation for the ceremony (such as help getting up and down the ramp to the stage).

What if I, or one of my guests, am hearing impaired?
Sign language (ASL) interpreters will translate virtually all of the ceremony. Please contact Claudia Aguilar if you have further questions.

I have other questions about graduation. Who can I talk to?
Contact Student Services Specialist, Claudia M. Aguilar at (760) 355-6358, or the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Sergio A. Lopez at (760) 355-6455.