



## May 6, 2026 Metro Commencement Ceremony

Please read this letter in its entirety as it includes important information.

### Ceremony Information

**Date:** Wednesday, May 6  
**Time:** 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Ending time is approximate, as we have over 1200 graduates participating. **All participants are required to stay on the arena floor for the entire ceremony.**)  
**Location:** Casey's Center  
(formerly Wells Fargo Arena)  
233 Center St, Des Moines  
**Doors Open** 5:00 pm

### Cap and Gown Pickup

**Date:** Wednesday, May 6  
**Time:** 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm  
**Location:** EMC Expo Center  
(formerly HyVee Hall)  
730 3<sup>rd</sup> Street,  
Des Moines  
**Doors Open** 5:00 pm

The event will be livestreamed. A link will be emailed to graduates prior to the ceremony.

### **ATTIRE and CHECK-IN PROCEDURE**

Commencement regalia shall consist of a cap, gown and tassel. If earned, DMACC honor cords, veterans cords, DMACC Honors Program medallions and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) stoles may also be worn at the ceremony. PTK members should contact your chapter advisor for information about obtaining stoles prior to the ceremony. This is a solemn occasion, so please choose clothing and shoes that will respect this event. The processional requires plenty of walking, including stairs down to the arena floor as well as walking to the stage and back. Plan accordingly and wear comfortable shoes.

Reader cards, caps, gowns, tassels, and cords are distributed in the EMC Expo Center (formerly known as HyVee Hall). You will begin by checking in at the Reader Card Table. You must keep your reader card with you at all times. This is used to read your name aloud and scanned to display your name on the Jumbotron when you cross the stage during the ceremony. **Please note that EMC Expo Center is intended for graduates only.** Once you receive your regalia you are welcome to join your guests in Casey's Center to socialize, eat, and take pictures prior to the ceremony.

### **CEREMONY INFORMATION**

**Due to safety/security protocols at Casey's Center, graduates are required to stay on the arena floor for the entire ceremony. If you think this will be an issue, then you may want to reconsider whether to participate.** If you want individual and/or family photos taken, please plan to arrive before 6pm. If you do not intend to have photos taken, please plan to arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 pm to allow time to pick up your cap and gown and receive instructions for the processional. **Graduates are required to be dressed in their regalia and in their seats in EMC Expo Center (formerly known as HyVee Hall), by 6:30 pm.**

Participants in the graduation ceremony are presented as candidates for their respective awards. If you are eligible for more than one certificate/diploma/degree, your name is listed in the program for all awards but you will only walk across the stage once for the highest award received. Graduates who completed their program requirements in December of 2025 will be identified in the commencement program as fall graduates. At commencement you will receive a diploma cover. **Diplomas are mailed** approximately six weeks after the end of term in which you complete your program requirements. **\*\*To earn an honor cord, students must achieve a 3.50 grade point average in all courses that apply toward their program of study. Because we will not have spring grades recorded prior to the commencement ceremony, only courses completed through the fall 2025 semester are included in this GPA calculation.**

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you require special accommodations or assistance during the ceremony, contact Credentials/Graduation immediately so arrangements can be made. Closed captioning will be available. Handicap parking is available in all the lots surrounding the arena. If your guests need special accommodations, please see a Casey's Center usher at the ceremony.

## **NO COAT CHECK**

There is no coat check available. Please plan to leave purses, keys and valuables at home or with family members. Do not bring backpacks to the ceremony. Information on Casey's Center bag policy and security measures can be found on their FAQ page here, <http://www.iowaeventscenter.com/plan-your-visit/event-policies-faq>.

## **GUEST SEATING**

Casey's Center provides a generous amount of seating for guests. We do not limit the number of guests that students can invite, and tickets are not required. Children must sit in the arena seats with an adult. They are not allowed to sit with graduates on the arena floor. Doors open at 5pm and seating is first come, first served.

## **PARKING**

Casey's Center/EMC Expo Center charges for parking in the lot, but free parking may be available on the streets. Please allow extra time to find parking and still arrive at the arena on time. Additional parking information can be found at <http://www.iowaeventscenter.com/plan-your-visit/directions-parking>.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

The Grad Team will photograph this year's ceremony. **Individual and family photos will be taken between 5:30 pm and 6:15 pm only on the second level of Casey's Center.** Additionally, each student will be photographed during the commencement ceremony when crossing and when exiting the stage. The Grad Team will send proofs to you within one week after commencement. You may order copies of the proof and various photograph packages at <https://thegradteam.com/events/dmacc/>

## **FOOD**

Concession items will be available for purchase at Casey's Center. Please no outside food.

**If you have questions regarding commencement or are no longer able to attend, please contact us at: (515) 964-6644 or [credentials@dmacc.edu](mailto:credentials@dmacc.edu).**