

Friday, May 8, 2026

Raider Arena at Northwest Florida State College • Niceville, FL

Ceremony Participation

Congratulations to all our Spring 2026 graduates! You and your guests are formally invited to participate in this Spring's 65th Annual Commencement Ceremony.

Spring 2026 Graduates must complete a Commencement RSVP by April 12th to have their name included in the official Commencement Ceremony Program.

Please note only students who participate in the commencement ceremony will receive a Northwest Florida State College Commemorative Medallion.

We look forward to celebrating with you soon!

Ceremony

10:00 a.m. Ceremony

- Graduates of Certificate, Associate in Applied Science (AAS), Associate in Science (AS), Bachelor Degree Programs (BAS, BSN, BSE)

2:00 p.m. Ceremony

- Graduates of Associate in Arts (AA)

Regalia

Starting now through April 10, 2026, Regalia is available for purchase online: bit.ly/CapGownNWFSC. Regalia will ship directly to the student from this site.

After April 10, 2026: Students will no longer be able to purchase through the website and will instead have to go to the Niceville NWFSC Barnes & Noble Bookstore. The bookstore will sell regalia on the week of Commencement and prior to the ceremonies. **An additional late fee will apply.**

- Full academic regalia (cap, gown, tassel) is required for participation.
- Baccalaureate stoles **MUST** be worn by those completing a BAS, BSE, or BSN.
- Extra tassels are available for purchase.
- Store Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Store Hours Commencement Friday, May 8, 2026:
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more information please contact the Barnes and Noble College Bookstore at (850) 729-5384.

Announcements & College Rings

- Celebrate your success! Order your commencement announcements, diploma frames, college rings and more online at <http://cbgrad.balfour.com> or call 1-800-433-0296.

Photographs

- Professional photos will be taken of each grad as they cross the stage and a proof will be sent to each graduate for opportunity to purchase.
- In the interest of safety, and keeping aisles open, **all photos taken by guests must be taken from their seats. Hand-held video cameras are allowed, but no tripods.**

Honor Students

Honor cords are provided by the College and are distributed during check-in. Questions? Contact a Student Services 850-502-2895.

Honors for students include:

- Gold Cords (Summa Cum Laude & Highest Honors) 4.0 cumulative GPA
- Silver Cords (Magna Cum Laude & High Honors) 3.80-3.99 cumulative GPA
- Red Cords (Cum Laude & Honors) 3.50-3.79 cumulative GPA
- Red, White & Blue Cords-Active Duty or Veterans

Note: Spring graduates—Fall GPA is used since Spring grades are posted after the Ceremony. Should a student's honor status change after final grades post, the diploma will reflect the final honors status.

Phi Theta Kappa Stoles/Tassels

PTK members who intend to graduate and wear the PTK stole and tassel must contact Mrs. Selin Apak prior to April 1, 2026 to be cleared as a member in good standing who is eligible to wear the PTK honor regalia, and have the PTK designation on their **final transcript. This designation will not be added to the transcript unless PTK members follow these instructions.**

REMEMBER: PTK members are responsible for purchasing their stole and tassel prior to the Ceremony. These are **not** given out by the College Bookstore. These can be purchased from the PTK national organization at store.ptk.org/product-category/grad.

PTK Sponsor: Mrs. Selin Apak

Email: apaks@nwfsc.edu

Attire/Dress

Active duty military and veterans are permitted to wear their service dress uniform.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Dresses/skirts | • No shorts/no denim |
| • Dress Slacks | • No flip flops |
| • Dress Shirts | • No corsages or jewelry on robe |
| • Ties | |

Contact Phone Numbers

Student Services850-502-2895

Accommodations Resource Center850-729-6079

Barnes & Noble College Bookstore: Niceville.....850-729-5384

2026 Commencement Ceremony, continued

Check-In and Ceremony

- Arrive dressed in cap and gown, **no later** than 30 minutes prior to the start of your Ceremony.
- Wear cap with tassel on right side before Ceremony.
- Report to check-in table outside Raider Arena.
- **Only graduates will be permitted to enter the Check-In Area. Guests need to proceed directly to the Arena.**
- Pick up your *graduate card* from a member of Student Success at check-in. This card is key to the Commencement Ceremony. It serves the following purposes:
 - 1) Gives your name and home address to the photographer, so you receive proofs of your photos and;
 - 2) Provides your name to the announcer for individual recognition on stage (hand the card to the announcer as you step onto the stage).

Guests

- Raider Arena doors will open 45 minutes prior to the start of the Ceremony for guests.
- No tickets are required. Seating is open, on a first-come-first served basis.
- Seating for guests with disabilities is available, again on a first-come-first-served basis. Contact our Accommodations Resource Center at 850-729-6079, if special accommodations are required.

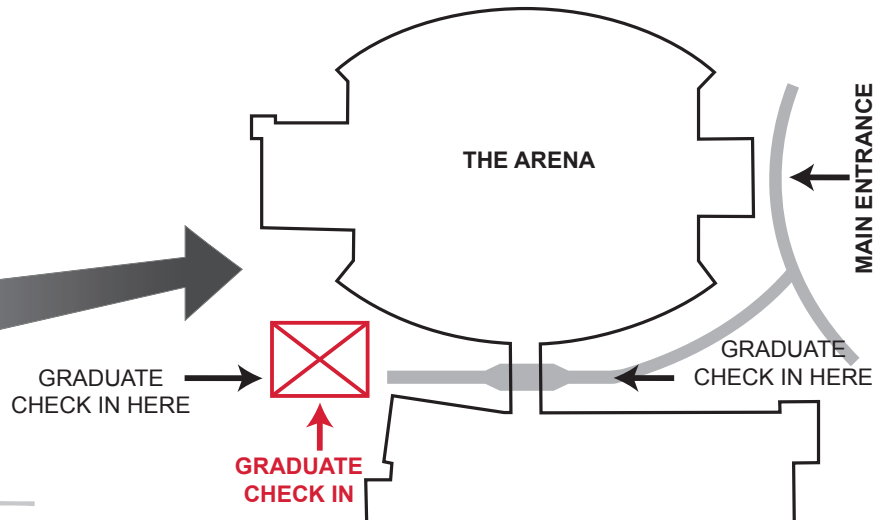
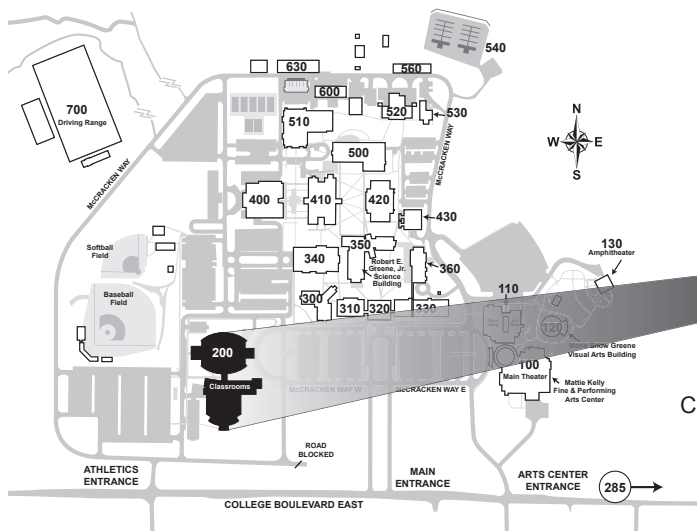
Parking

- Large lots north and west of the Arena with additional parking east of the Arena at Northwest Florida State College.
- Graduates, remember to allow yourself time to park and get to Raider Arena check-in **no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of your Ceremony.**

Ceremony Etiquette

- Graduates arrive **no later** than 30 minutes prior to the start of the Ceremony.
9:30 a.m. for the 10:00 a.m. Ceremony
1:30 p.m. for the 2:00 p.m. Ceremony
- Proper behavior/courtesy is important for this special occasion.
- Only Graduates will be permitted to enter the check-in area. Guests need to proceed directly to Raider Arena.
- Entire audience (including graduates) remains standing until invocation is finished.
- Ceremony typically lasts one to one-and-a-half hours.
- Graduates must participate in the entire Ceremony.
- Everyone stands for benediction and recessional.
- If it is necessary for guests to leave Raider Arena, please do so as quietly as possible so as not to disturb other families whose graduate has not yet been recognized.

RAIDER ARENA at Northwest Florida State College – NICEVILLE CAMPUS



GRADUATES:
STEP 1 – NO SECURE PLACE IS AVAILABLE FOR PERSONAL VALUABLES (HANDBAG, KEYS, ETC.). DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS WITH YOU TO THE CEREMONY. BE SURE TO BRING YOUR REGALIA (CAP, GOWN & TASSEL).

STEP 2 – REPORT TO THE CHECK-IN AT POINT (A) OUTSIDE BY THE WEST ENTRANCE OF THE ARENA.

On-time arrival for commencement ceremonies is critical since no rehearsal takes place prior to the ceremonies.



**NORTHWEST FLORIDA
STATE COLLEGE**

100 College Boulevard E., Niceville, FL 32578

www.nwfsc.edu

Northwest Florida State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. Degree-granting institutions also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Northwest Florida State College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).