

ECPI University: 2026 Commencement—Important Information

PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO AT COMMENCEMENT, AS THERE WILL NOT BE A REHEARSAL.

LOCATION & PARKING: ECPI's Commencement exercises will be held at the **Siegel Center** on 1200 W. Broad Street in Richmond, Virginia. *(More info on next page.)*

DATE & TIME: The ceremony will begin at 10:00 am on Friday, May 15, 2026. **Graduates must arrive no later than 9:00 AM.** Doors will open to the public for seating at 9:30 AM. *Please eat breakfast before you arrive for the ceremony; it will be a long day.*

FAMILY & GUESTS: There is **NO LIMIT** to the number of family members and guests that may attend, and **NO TICKETS ARE NEEDED** for entry to the Siegel Center.

GRADUATION ATTIRE: Graduates are responsible for bringing their graduation attire to Commencement. Steaming the gown is recommended. Do NOT have your gown dry cleaned and be careful not to press it with too hot an iron as the material is delicate. **Tassels are worn on the right side of your cap.** *(On the day of Commencement, university staff will assist graduates with their caps, tassels, hoods, and cords.)*

PURSES & SHOES: Graduates cannot carry a large purse into the ceremony, and the Siegel Center does not provide safe storage for personal items. If necessary, wear a small crossbody bag **under** your gown or leave your purse with family & friends. There is quite a bit of walking and standing during Commencement. Students are encouraged to wear footwear that is safe for walking and taking stairs.

ARRIVAL & PRE-CEREMONY: When you arrive at the Siegel Center with your graduation attire, you will be directed by a staff member to join your classmates in the **auxiliary gym**. Each person will receive a 3 x 5 card with their name written exactly as it will be announced. During the ceremony, you will hand this card to the person on stage calling names. **It is IMPERATIVE that you do not lose this card.**

CEREMONY: At approximately 9:30 am, graduates will form lines by program. At 10:00 am, *Pomp and Circumstance* will be played, and you will be directed by university staff from the auxiliary gym to your seats in the arena. Please fill in all seats and remain standing until you are asked to sit.

When it is time for you to go on stage **with your 3 x 5 name card**, your row will rise on cue. You will then walk to the stairs on the left side of the stage, cross the stage as your name is called, receive your "letter" in your left hand, shake hands with your right hand, go down the stairs on the right, and return to your row. Please sit as soon as you reach your seat.

At the appropriate time, the entire graduating class will be asked to stand. You will move your tassel from the right side to the left when prompted during a special announcement. You will then sit down on cue.

CONCLUSION: During the recessional, you will rise together and march out one row at a time—with staff guidance—beginning with the first row. Please clear the doorways so that all graduates may exit.

Commencement is expected to conclude around 12:00 p.m. CONGRATULATIONS!

Live Streaming of the Ceremony

The event will be live streamed on ECPI University's Facebook page at:

<https://www.ecpi.edu/livestream>

Directions and Maps

The Siegel Center is located at 1200 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23284.

If traveling on I-95 South/I-64 East (I-95 and I-64 merge)

Take exit #76B for Belvidere Street. Turn left off exit ramp on to Leigh Street. Go to 1st traffic light, turn right onto Belvidere Street. At the 3rd traffic light, turn right onto Broad Street. The Siegel Center is on the right after the third traffic light.

If traveling on I-95 North/I-64 West

Take exit #76A Chamberlayne and get in the left lane on exit ramp. Turn left at the traffic light. After crossing the bridge, bear right onto St. Peter's Street at the stop sign, turn right onto Leigh Street. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Belvidere Street. At the 3rd traffic light, turn right onto Broad Street. The Siegel Center is on the right after the third traffic light.

Parking

The majority of available parking for Siegel Center events is located in two large parking decks. The fee to park in the deck is \$10.

- One parking deck is located across from the Siegel Center on Broad St.—between Harrison St. and Shafer St.
- The other parking deck is located behind the Siegel Center—accessible from Bowe St.

VCU Parking & Transportation manages all parking lots and decks on campus. They can be reached at 804/828-PARK. Their website is <https://parking.vcu.edu/special-events>.

Prohibited Items (Verizon Wireless Arena at the Stuart C. Siegel Center)

The following items are prohibited for all events at the Stuart C. Siegel Center:

Alcohol; backpacks and duffle bags; balloons; coolers, bottles, cans; outside vendor food and drink; laser pointers; artificial noise makers; weapons; wrapped packages; tri-pods for cameras; video cameras; animals, in exception to seeing eye dogs; and pepper spray.

Please call (804) 827-1000 for any questions about Prohibited Items.