

**Commencement Instructions
Cabarrus Arena & Events Center
May 16, 2026**

General Information – ALL

Access

The Cabarrus Arena accommodates over 5,000 people. Even though we have a large graduating class, we anticipate ample seating, therefore tickets are not required. For those who are unable to attend in person, the ceremony will be live-streamed. Livestream links are available on the College's Commencement website [Graduation | Cabarrus College of Health Sciences](#).

Parking

There is ample parking at the arena. Students and guests will park in the open areas in front of the arena. Faculty, staff, Governing Board members and VIPs will park in the Warehouse parking lot, behind Event Center A. Please refer to the enclosed Cabarrus Arena map for parking directions.

Guests

Please enter the arena using the main entrance, near the red ticket booths. Doors open at 9:00 am. Guests will be directed to the seating areas.

Concessions

The concession stands will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm offering a reduced menu, including sausage biscuits, chicken tenders, hot dogs, nachos, pretzels, soft drinks, water, and coffee. Cash is not accepted.

Nursing Pinning Ceremony – Arena

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony all students, faculty and governing board members will process out of the arena and will return to the designated dressing area in Event Center A.

Boxed lunches will be provided for faculty and pre-licensure nursing graduates who will be participating in the pinning ceremony. After lunch, please stay in place to get organized and lined up for the Nursing Pinning Ceremony which begins promptly at 2:00 pm.

For those who are unable to attend in person, the ceremony will be live-streamed. The Livestream link is available on the College's Commencement website [Graduation | Cabarrus College of Health Sciences](#).

MOT Pinning Ceremony – Gold Hall 2

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony all students, faculty and governing board members will process out of the arena and will return to the designated dressing area in Event Center A.

Boxed lunches will be provided for faculty and MOT graduates who will be participating in the pinning ceremony. After lunch, please walk to Gold Hall 2 for the MOT Pinning Ceremony which begins promptly at 2:00 pm.

For those who are unable to attend in person, the ceremony will be live-streamed. The Livestream link can be found on the College's Commencement website [Graduation | Cabarrus College of Health Sciences](#).

Instructions for Graduates

Graduates need to arrive NO LATER than 9:00 am. Please park in the main parking lot. Follow the signage through the breeze way to the graduate entrance in **Event Center A**. Please arrive promptly so we have ample time for photos and line up instructions. There will be NO rehearsal prior to the actual ceremony, so your prompt arrival is essential. Ceremony participants will be processing into and seated in the arena. **Once the ceremony begins, you will NOT be permitted in the graduate seating area.**

Graduates are asked to dress in academic regalia outside of the arena and prior to entrance. There is a rather long procession through the building, so comfortable footwear is encouraged. **The dressing area will NOT be secure during the ceremony, so we urge you to leave valuables at home.** Graduates will have access to the restrooms in Event Center A for last-minute touch-ups.

Instructions for Faculty

Faculty/Staff please enter the arena via the Service Road and park in the back warehouse parking lot and enter Event Center A through the back door. Please refer to the Cabarrus Arena map for parking directions.

Event Center A doors open at 9:00 am. Please arrive NO LATER than 9:30 am so we have ample time for photos and line up instructions. Faculty will be seated on the floor of the arena near the graduates. **There will be NO rehearsal prior to the actual ceremony, so your prompt arrival is essential.**

Faculty will gather in Event Center A. Restrooms are nearby on the same floor. You will be lined up and given more specific procession instructions on the day of commencement.

Faculty are asked to dress in academic regalia outside of the arena and prior to entrance. There is a rather long procession through the building, so comfortable footwear is encouraged. **This area will NOT be secure during the ceremony, so we urge you to leave valuables at home.**

Instructions for Governing Board/Administration/Program Chairs/Special Guests

Governing Board, Administration, Program Chairs and Special Guests please enter the arena via the Service Road and park in the back warehouse parking lot and enter Event Center A through the back door. Please refer to the Cabarrus Arena map for parking directions.

Event Center A doors open at 9:00 am. Please arrive NO LATER than 9:30 am so we have ample time for photos and line up instructions. All members of this group will be seated on the stage. **There will be NO rehearsal prior to the actual ceremony, so your prompt arrival is essential.**

Governing Board, Administration, Program Chairs and Special Guests will gather behind the stage. Restrooms are nearby on the same floor.

Your academic regalia will be waiting for you behind the stage (except for Program Chairs). There is a rather long procession through the building, so comfortable footwear is encouraged. **This area will NOT be secure during the ceremony, so we urge you to leave valuables at home.**

You will be lined up and given more specific procession instructions on the day of commencement.