

## Odessa College Graduation FAQ's

### Q: What do I need to do to graduate?

A: Log in to [Wrangler Portal](#) to confirm your graduation information. Be sure to select the appropriate term.

### Q: Who may participate in graduation?

A: The graduation ceremony celebrates the accomplishments of students who complete a certificate or degree, certain Occupational Skills Awards (through Continuing Education) and those completing their Texas Credential of High School Equivalency (TXCHSE/GED). Students completing a TXCHSE/GED will purchase their cap & gown through the Odessa College bookstore.

### Q: Does it cost anything to graduate? What about my cap and gown?

A: There is no application fee, and your **cap and gown** has been reserved for you (FREE for those who qualify and commit to participating in the ceremony).

### Q: I received a free cap and gown last year – do I wear the same one?

A: Students that received a free cap and gown prior to Fall 24 need to get a new cap and gown. The Fall 24 gown is the current design. You are welcome to wear tassels from a prior year, or you may purchase a tassel from the Campus Store. Students are limited to [one free cap and gown](#), for those who participate in the ceremony.

### Q: Do I get to wear my PTK regalia?

A: Members of Phi Theta Kappa are allowed to wear their personally purchased PTK **stole**, **honor cord**, and **tassel**. The website is <http://store.ptk.org/graduation/regalia.html>

### Q: Do I get to wear my NSLS regalia?

A: Members of the National Society of Leadership and Success are allowed to wear their personally-purchased NSLS **stole**, **honor cord**, and **tassel**. The website is <https://www.societyleadership.org/>

**Q: What about other honors cords?**

**A:** There are some specific honors for certain student groups. Please see the advisor of your student group to ask for more information. Those honors are not handled by the Records Office or the Graduation Advisor.

**Q: What about my academic honors, such as Cum Laude? Do I need to purchase an honor cord?**

**A:** Each graduate who has earned honors will be presented with their honor cord during check-in for the graduation ceremony. There is no cost to graduate. We will discuss how the honor is bestowed upon you before the ceremony. Honors are listed in the program based on the graduate's "graduation" GPA at the end of the fall 1 or spring 1 term and will be similarly announced. The "graduation" GPA includes college level courses taken at Odessa College only. A minimum of 30 semester hours must be taken at OC to be awarded honors.

Cum Laude 3.500 – 3.699

Magna cum laude 3.700 – 3.899

Summa cum laude 3.900 – 4.000

After final courses' grades have been submitted, a final review of the academic record will be done to bestow the appropriate honor to the graduate on the transcript and on the diploma (degrees only).

**Q: Does the graduation application need to be submitted by a certain date?**

**A:** There is a deadline to turn in applications in order to have your name printed in the graduation program. This date is roughly 6 weeks prior to the ceremony, so confirm through [Wrangler Portal](#) as early as possible. Please see the [Graduation at Odessa College](#) for current dates for the ceremony.

**Q: When and where is rehearsal and graduation?**

**A:** There is no graduation rehearsal, however there are links available on the Graduation webpage with a seating diagram of the ceremony setup. Please watch it carefully to be familiar with the flow of the ceremony. Additional information will be provided to graduates one hour before the ceremony begins.

Please check the Graduation webpage for current dates and locations. **PLEASE BE SURE TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 90 minutes PRIOR TO THE START TIME LISTED.** Late arrivals will be asked to return to attend another scheduled graduation. Please be prompt and if you have issues with your scheduled time to walk, please call us at 432-335-6404 or email [graduation@odessa.edu](mailto:graduation@odessa.edu).

**Q: What do I wear under my graduation gown?**

**A:** We recommend wearing neat, comfortable clothing that's appropriate for the weather on the day of your ceremony. Keep in mind that the gown adds an extra layer, and the venue may be warm due to the number of people in attendance. Avoid wearing high heels, as graduates will need to navigate several flights of stairs. Once you've received an email notification, please pick up your cap and gown from the OC Bookstore.

**Q: I am receiving two degrees or certificates. How will I walk for both?**

**A:** Graduates will only walk once and will receive one diploma folder. Please call (432) 335-6404 if you have any concerns.

**Q: When will I get my diploma?**

**A:** Each graduate who has completed all coursework with satisfactory posted grades will receive an email notification when the diploma and/or certificate is ready to be picked up. This will usually be roughly 8 weeks following the graduation ceremony. To receive your credential, all holds must be cleared, and you will need **a photo ID to receive your credential**. Diplomas and certificates not picked up within a few weeks will be mailed to the address on file on your academic record.

**Q: Other schools allow graduates to decorate their cap. Can we do so?**

**A:** NO. It is the policy of Odessa College and the OC President; Dr. Williams's preference is that all graduates will maintain their cap in the way it was purchased. Decorations for graduation are **NOT** permitted.

**Q: Will my guests need tickets to attend the ceremony?**

**A:** No. However, please be considerate of the other graduates and invite a reasonable number of guests. Due to the large number of graduates, we may have multiple ceremonies, but each one will be quite full.

**Q: Will family and friends from out of town be able to watch my graduation through Live Stream?**

**A:** Yes. Please ask them to go to this website at the time of your ceremony.

<http://www.odessa.edu/live>

**Q: Will there be a photographer present?**

**A:** Yes! We have arranged for a professional photography team to commemorate your big day. There will be 2-3 photos taken of each graduate and a few candid shots along the way. You can go to [www.gradimages.com](http://www.gradimages.com) to pre-register. There is no obligation to purchase, and your family and friends are welcome to bring their cameras for group photos.

**Q: Is handicapped seating available for my guests?**

**A:** Yes. There are specific areas at both venues that accommodate wheelchairs. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating these areas.

**Q: I have comments (positive or negative) about my time at Odessa College. Can I tell someone?**

**A:** ABSOLUTELY! We ask all graduates to complete a **survey** letting us know how OC served your needs in various departments. Watch for the email, click the link and let us know who you'd like to give a shout out to or what improvements you'd like to see. *It's because of graduates like YOU that we've continued to improve to become an Aspen Institute Rising Star award-winning college, ranked in the top four community colleges in the nation – and we thank you.*