**COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY NEWS 2022**

**DATES of NOTE:**

March 14-20 – Spring Break

**March 21 - Deadline to contact Kenne Bauer if interested in being a commencement speaker**

**March 23 - Deadline to pay to participate in the Commencement Ceremony**

**April 1 - Deadline to submit commencement speeches for content approval**

**April 1 - Deadline to contact Kenne Bauer regarding Special Accommodations**

**April 25-29 - Caps & Gowns available to pick up in College Store**

May 6 - 15-week classes end for Spring term

May 7 - Commencement Ceremony

May 8 - Mother’s Day

Note: *Participation in the commencement ceremony does not imply that a degree/certificate has been awarded nor that a student is a ‘graduate*.’

The commencement ceremony is a traditional college celebration of academic achievement which MCC holds once a year. Students who may not be finished with their requirements are allowed to participate.

Most ceremony participants are considered, “Candidates for Graduation,” as Spring grades have not been submitted by the time the ceremony takes place. All program requirements must be met before a degree/certificate is awarded and posted to a student’s academic records.

COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPATION FEE

A Commencement Participation Fee of $40.00 is required for *all* students who wish to take part in the ceremony. This fee pays for the cap, gown, and tassel. Please contact the MCC College Store, (970) 542-3143, with questions about the Commencement Participation Fee. Payment can be made at the College Store or by visiting your Center staff **by March 23, 2022.**

**ADDRESS CHANGES**

It is important that the college has accurate mailing addresses. Changes can be made on the student account via the MyMCC student portal at [www.morgancc.edu](http://www.morgancc.edu) immediately. Diploma and any other information regarding commencement and graduation will be mailed to the local address of record provided to the Registrar’s Office.

CEREMONY DETAILS

MCC’s Spring Commencement ceremony will be held **Saturday May 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.m**. **in the** **Dahms-Talton Band Shell in City Park,** **414 Main Street Fort Morgan, Colorado**. The ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes.

Seats are only reserved for students, faculty, and other MCC representatives. However, City Park has spacious lawn seating with excellent views of the ceremony. Remind guests to bring lawn chairs or blankets for their comfort. If it is a sunny morning, sunglasses, visors, and/or hats are recommended. It is also a good idea to bring water.

COVID or INCLEMENT WEATHER

If MCC makes the decision to not hold the in-person ceremony due to COVID, inclement weather, or other health or safety reasons, an announcement will be made the day before commencement. It will be broadcast over local radio stations, posted on MCC social media, and listed on the MCC website, [www.morgancc.edu](http://www.morgancc.edu).

CEREMONY PROCEDURES

Detailed ceremony procedures will be emailed separately to those graduation applicants who have paid the Participation Fee. A copy will also be posted on the MCC website.

STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

Students interested in being an MCC student speaker at Spring Commencement, please notify Kenne Bauer **by March 21, 2022.**

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR STUDENT SPEECHES:

* 5-7 minutes in length
* Focus on your personal experience at MCC
* Seek to inspire the audience
* Speech content must be submitted for approval **by April 1, 2022.**

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who need special accommodations to participate in the commencement ceremony (e.g., special stage access, sign language interpreter, physical assistance, a ramp, etc.), may contact Kenne Bauer at 970-542-3167 **by April 1, 2022.**

CAPS AND GOWNS

Included in the Commencement Participation Fee, caps and gowns must be ordered through the College Store **by March 23, 2022** andwill be available for pick up in the College Store starting the last week in April. Store hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Caps and gowns will be delivered to Centers for students from the Bennett, Limon, Wray, or Burlington Centers. *Students must note the Center location on the order form.*

Caps and gowns not picked up by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before the ceremony will be taken to the ceremony check-in location (Fort Morgan United Methodist Church, 117 E. Bijou Ave,) the day of Commencement. However, no facilities will be available for ironing. For safety reasons, please do not bring an iron the day of commencement.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Printed graduation announcements are available for purchase at [www.cbgrad.balfour.com](http://www.cbgrad.balfour.com). Samples are available in the College Store.

CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHS

MCC will have a photographer on site at commencement. These photos will be posted on the MCC website and available to download and share as desired. Commencement will be live streamed on MCC social media platforms.

DEGREE POSTING and DIPLOMAS

There is *no charge* to receive a diploma. After the end of the semester and all final grades are recorded by the instructors, final graduation checks begin, and degrees and certificates are posted to the official academic records. The diploma will be issued with the name listed in the student’s academic record and will be mailed to the LOCAL address listed in the student’s record. All financial obligations to the college must be met before a diploma can be sent. Students can expect to receive diplomas six to eight weeks after the end of the term; however, requests for transcripts can be made as soon the degree or certificate is posted on the student’s MyMCC account.

DIPLOMA COVERS

Students attending commencement ceremonies will be provided one free diploma cover, which will be handed to students during the ceremony.  Additional covers may be purchased at the MCC College Store.

**NOT ATTENDING THE CEREMONY?**

Students not planning to attend the ceremony will receive their diploma in the mail six to eight weeks after the ceremony date (as long as all requirements are met.) One diploma cover will be provided for free (shipping extra). Students must contact Student Services by May 31st, 2022 to receive it. After this date students will need to pay for the diploma cover through the College Store. Extra MCC diploma covers, tassels and other graduation items are available for purchase at MCC College Store.

PHI THETA KAPPA (PTK) MEMBERS

Members of the PTK honor society are encouraged to wear PTK stoles or tassels with their graduation robes. Ordering information is available at [www.PTK.org](http://www.ptk.org). Click on “shop” in the upper right corner, then select “Graduation.” **Phi Theta Kappa members** **are responsible for ordering and paying for their own PTK stoles and/or tassels.** PTK membership is indicated in the Commencement program for A.A., A.S., A.A.S., and A.G.S. students, but is not announced as students cross the stage. If a student elects to wear a PTK tassel, no other tassel should be worn. PTK regalia may only be worn by A.A., A.S., A.A.S., and A.G.S. graduates/candidates. For more information, contact a PTK Advisor.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

For the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of General Studies, Associate of Applied Science degrees and Applied Technology certificates, graduation requirements are as follows:

* Academic program course requirements have been met with no grades below a “C” among the required courses.
* An Application to Graduate has been completed for the graduation term.
* At least fifteen (15) semester hours of credit have been earned at Morgan Community College.
* A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher has been achieved.

Note:

* No remedial or developmental courses will be applicable to an associate degree program.
* Some certificates may be computed based on program-only GPA with the Vice President of Instruction’s approval.
* Certain Applied Technology programs have additional requirements. Check program layout for specifics.
* MCC accepts transfer courses which have been completed with a “C” or better at an accredited college, university, or other approved institution.
* The college reserves the right to substitute or delete course work based on current curriculum.
* No more than three semester hours of physical education may be applied to an AA or AS degree program.
* To complete an associate degree program or certificate, students are required to complete the requirements in effect at the time of initial enrollment as specified in the college catalog. If a student does not attend the college for at least two consecutive semesters, excluding summer semester, the student will be subject to the requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of re-enrollment.
* To receive a diploma or transcripts, all financial obligations to the college must be met (as well as any financial obligations to other CCCS system colleges).

GRADUATION WITH HONORS

Students who have applied to graduate by the posted deadline and meet all the requirements listed below for Graduation with Honors will be notified via their student email accounts advising them of the honor to be conferred at the Spring ceremony. This notification will be done no later than the last week in March. Students who have not received notification by that time and feel they are eligible for Honors should contact the Registrar’s office no later than the second week in April. Students will not be allowed to “add” honors to their name cards the day of commencement.

Graduation with honors recognizes outstanding academic achievement throughout a student’s academic career at MCC. These honors are awarded to students who:

* Complete the requirements for an associate degree (A.A., A.S., A.G.S., or A.A.S.) and earn a 3.5 or better cumulative grade point average at MCC.
* (Only college level courses completed at MCC will be included in the GPA calculation.)
* Transfer students must complete a minimum of 51% of course work at MCC.
* Recipients must have all course work in progress to be completed by the end of the graduation semester to be recognized at commencement and receive honors designations during the ceremony, in the program, and in commencement publicity.
* Honors recognition at the Spring Commencement ceremony is based on the GPA from the last completed term prior to the graduation term.
* If a final GPA qualifies a spring graduate for honors, even though the previous final GPA was below 3.50, the honor will be posted on the official academic transcript, although the honor was not noted at the commencement ceremony.
* Conversely, if a final GPA disqualifies a spring graduate from receipt of honors designation, the designation will not be posted on the official academic transcript, even if the honor was noted in the ceremony program and publicity.

The three levels of recognition are defined as follows and will be posted on the student’s transcript:

cum laude (“with honor”)

3.50 to 3.749 Cumulative GPA

magna cum laude (“with great honor”)

3.75 to 3.99 Cumulative GPA

summa cum laude (“with highest honor”)

4.00 Cumulative GPA

SUMMER COMPLETERS and HONORS

A student who is completing requirements during the summer term *will not be eligible for commencement honors recognition the spring before completion.* If, at the end of the summer term, completion is within honors ranges, the honors will be posted to the student’s official transcript.

FINANCIAL AID

If a student has a student loan, they must complete an exit loan counseling.  Stafford loan repayment begins six months after graduation. Students who are continuing their education should contact the lender for a deferment form to postpone payments while attending school. Contact the Financial Aid Office with questions.

ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

Students who are transferring and wish to have their MCC transcripts sent to another college can request through the MYMCC portal. It can take from three to seven days to process, PLUS mailing time if it is not a request for an electronic transcript. There are fees associated with ordering and sending transcripts. Also, transcripts requested are sent out immediately. **Students should** **check that the degree or certificate is posted to their academic records BEFORE putting in a transcript request** or risk submitting a second request and paying additional fees after the award is posted.

NON-COMPLETER NOTICE

If degree/certificate requirements, including financial obligations, are not complete by the end of the application term, students will receive a “Non-Completer Notice” via their student email accounts. This notice will include information regarding how the student may re-apply to graduate upon completion of deficient requirements.

GRADUATION MEMENTOS & GIFTS

The MCC College Store has MCC gifts, mementos, and clothing items available to commemorate your graduation.

CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION ELSEWHERE?

MCC asks students who are planning on continuing your education at another institution to share that information. MCC often receives notices of scholarships, grants, etc. specific for transfer students, and will share information with students as we receive it.  Call Kenne Bauer at 970-542-3167 or e-mail her at kenne.bauer@morgancc.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are proud of our MCC graduates and their accomplishments. Please let us know if you move so we can keep in touch!  We periodically honor our graduates and outstanding alumni, and we are always happy to hear how you are doing.

“GRAD News” is published once a year and is sent to all MCC students who apply to graduate within the academic year.

GRAD NEWSLETTER (Rev. 3/2/2022)