

# PALO ALTO COLLEGE

# 2023

## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FAQs

After years of hard work and dedication, Palo Alto College's class of 2023 will be completing their associate degrees and certificates! Completing a degree or certificate is a huge accomplishment, and Palo Alto College is hosting its annual commencement ceremony to celebrate.

### When and where is commencement?

Our commencement ceremony will be held on May 13, 2023, at the Freeman Coliseum, 3201 East Houston Street, San Antonio, TX 78219, next to the AT&T Center.

### At what time does commencement start?

The graduate procession will begin at 6:45 p.m. with the commencement ceremony beginning at 7 p.m.

### How long is commencement?

The commencement ceremony will take approximately two hours.

### How many people can I invite?

You can invite as many friends and family members as you would like.

### Is there reserved seating for guests?

No, seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

### At what time should I arrive?

Please arrive no earlier than 5 p.m.

### Where do I check in?

From Lot #9, you will enter the Coliseum Expo Hall 2 on the left (south end) of the Coliseum. There will be a guide to direct you. Graduates will **NOT** be allowed to bring personal items they can't carry on their person. No personal storage will be available. No additional guest are allowed in the check-in area.

### Who do I contact if I need Disability Services to interpret or assist me during commencement?

Students with disabilities can request reasonable accommodations through the Disability Support Services office at 210-486-3020. Please give a 72-hour advanced notice to arrange accommodations.

### What should I wear?

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. **Once you are checked in, you may be standing in line for more than 30 minutes before the ceremony.**

### What side should my tassel be on my cap?

Before the ceremony, graduates wear tassels on the right side of the cap until directed to turn the tassel by the College president.

### Can I decorate my graduation cap?

Yes! All decorations must lay flat on the cap. Nothing can lay perpendicular, thus allowing us to see the decoration beyond eye level. Caps should not be offensive, distracting, or obstruct anyone's view of the ceremony.

### Can I wear anything over my graduation gown?

Due to the formality of this occasion, we ask that you do not cover your gown with personal items. Only approved stoles or cords can be worn over your gown. Your graduation gown should not be decorated.

### Do I receive my diploma/certificate during the commencement?

No, you will receive a diploma cover. Your diploma/certificate will be mailed to you about 2-3 months after completing all degree requirements.

### At what time do the doors open for guests at commencement?

Doors will open at 5 p.m.

### What is NOT permitted at commencement?

To provide an enjoyable environment for all attendees, the following items are prohibited:

- Air horns, shakers, and other noisemakers;
- Signs, posters, and banners;
- Confetti, streamers, beach balls, balloons, strollers, flowers, and other decorations are prohibited inside the Coliseum.

### Where do I park?

Students will park in Lot#9. You will receive a parking pass at the Graduation Cap & Gown pick-up and will surrender it to the person at Gate A.

### Is there a parking charge?

Any guests who drive separately from the graduate will park in lot #1 and #2. The charge is \$10 per vehicle.

### Can pictures be taken when I cross the stage?

The College will provide a professional photographer from Flash Photography who will take a photo of each graduate as they receive a diploma. Flash Photography will email a proof to you so you can order items.

### How do I keep in touch with Palo Alto College after I graduate?

Your connections to Palo Alto College do not end when you graduate. You are considered an alumnus whether you have taken a class, completed a certificate, or earned a degree. Once a Palomino, always a Palomino! Membership in the PAC Alumni & Friends Association is all about being PAC proud.

Here's what you can expect when you join:

- Establishing and maintaining relationships with alumni, former students, family members, and community members
- Opportunities to give back to Palo Alto College through service
- Participation in alumni activities, events, and fundraisers

Check out YOUR alumni website at [alamo.edu/pac/alumni](http://alamo.edu/pac/alumni).

We look forward to celebrating you and this amazing milestone! Any additional questions related to graduation or the commencement ceremony can be sent to [pac-graduation@alamo.edu](mailto:pac-graduation@alamo.edu).



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
Palo Alto College