Grad Guide
Your guidebook for all things Commencement

COMMENCEMENT 2020
COMMENCEMENT SITE
The college will hold its commencement at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, with an academic procession beginning at 11:00 am. The arena doors will open promptly at 10 am. Doors will not open before that time. The ceremony will begin promptly at 11:00 am.

Bags are subject to search. The following items are NOT allowed inside the arena:

- Food
- Helium Balloons
- Baby Strollers
- Flowers
- Beverages
- Confetti
- Gifts
- Wrapped packages

The arena is easily accessible from I-95 and the Merritt Parkway. Due to the likelihood of rush-hour traffic, please allow yourself extra time to arrive at the arena.

CAPS AND GOWNS
Graduation candidates must order caps and gowns online at: housatoniccc.shopoakhall.com. Orders must be placed by March 22.

Caps and gowns will be available for pick up at the HCC Bookstore (BH 137) beginning April 30. A valid ID must be shown for pickup.

GUEST TICKETS
Tickets are required for all guests and small children. Each graduate may pick up a maximum of 10 tickets at the HCC Bookstore. Tickets will be distributed to students in person with their HCC ID at Gradfest on April 29 or can be picked up in the HCC Bookstore thereafter. If you do not need all 10 tickets please return them for others to use. All guests are required to have a ticket. Extra tickets may be available after May 4th.

HONOR CORDS
Honor cords will be distributed at the Arena prior to the ceremony to students who have honors (3.4) or higher.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS
If you are a graduate with a disability who needs special accommodations, please contact Marilyn Wehr, Coordinator of Accessibility Services, at (203) 332-5018 no later than May 11.

PARKING
Parking spaces, including parking for the handicapped, are available at the Arena for a $5.00 fee. Students with parking passes may park in the HCC garage and walk over. Please arrange for car pool if possible; parking may be limited in the Arena’s parking garage due to other events.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY
A professional photographer will be available to take your photo after receiving your diploma cover on stage at commencement. An order form will be mailed to you from the photographer so you can make arrangements directly with the studio for purchasing the photographs. Guests are not permitted in the aisles to take photographs during the Commencement exercises as such activity can be distracting and may create safety concerns.

Pre-grad portraits will also be available at GradFest on April 29.

DIPLOMAS
All graduates will be given diploma covers on stage at Commencement. Diplomas will then be available for pick-up on or after July 13th and can only be mailed based on a written request to the Registrar’s Office. A valid photo ID is required for pickup.
GRADUATE ENTRY
Please report to the Arena parking garage with your commencement attire (cap, gown and tassel) at 10am. All students must enter the Arena using the Guest Services Entrance only and proceed to their left once inside the concourse area. You will be directed to the Student Area by HCC Commencement Marshals and Ushers. The 10am arrival time is very important because at that time you will receive all of the final instructions pertaining to graduation. You must then robe and line up alphabetically by degree program no later than 10:30am. The ceremony will begin promptly at 11:00am and conclude at approximately 1:00pm.

GRADUATE PROCESSION ASSEMBLY
Commencement Marshals will greet you when you arrive at the Arena and provide you with instructions for lining up for the Commencement March and will also give you a name card.

Due to a compact seating arrangement, graduates must move as closely as possible to one another to ensure that every seat in the row is filled. Please pay careful attention to this as it will slow down the procession line and seating and delay the ceremony otherwise.

When graduates are approaching the stage to receive their diploma, they must hand their name card to the announcer. When your name is read, please walk across the stage to receive your diploma cover from the College’s President. If you are concerned about the pronunciation of your name by the name reader, please call (203) 332-5182 between April 30th and May 20th to provide instructions on the pronunciation of your name.

Students who have chosen to participate in the commencement ceremony must plan to stay for the entire ceremony.

GUEST ENTRY
Your guests should proceed directly to the Arena’s Main Entrance for their seating. Please request that your guests allow enough time to be seated prior to the start of the ceremony. Arena policy is that all bags are subject to search. Additionally, there is no storage area to secure or store personal belongings.

RECEPTION
Please join us! Immediately following the ceremony a reception for graduates, guests and college staff will be held in the HCC Courtyard or Beacon Hall Event Center in the event of inclement weather.

HCC BOOKSTORE HOURS:
Mondays 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
Tuesdays – Thursdays 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Fridays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

EVENTS

Graduation Workshops
Attend a workshop and be prepared for the big day!
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Beacon Hall, Room 320
Tuesday, March 24, 2020
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM | Beacon Hall, Room 356
Thursday, April 21, 2020
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Beacon Hall, Room 320
Tuesday, April 28, 2020
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Beacon Hall, Room 320
Tuesday, May 5, 2020
10:00 AM - 11:30 PM | Beacon Hall, Room 320

GRADFest
Wednesday, April 29, 2020 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Beacon Hall, Events Center, Room 214
You are invited to attend GradFest 2020, where you will find everything you need to participate in Commencement and make your graduation a truly momentous occasion.
• Pick up your regalia (cap & gown) and guest tickets
• Have your pre-grad portrait taken
• Decorate your graduation cap
• Join the Alumni Association
• Enjoy complimentary brunch and snacks
• Win prizes!

If you can’t make GradFest, you can pick up your cap/gown and tickets in the HCC bookstore up until 5/19, the day before graduation.

Award Convocation
Tuesday, May 19 | 6:00 PM
Beacon Hall Event Center
The annual Awards Convocation celebrates the accomplishments of students with outstanding academic excellence.

Visit HCC’s Facebook page for a live streaming of the commencement ceremony!
@HCCBridgeport
#HCCGrad
#CommunityCollegeProud
DIRECTIONS

FROM I-95 SOUTHBOUND
Take Exit 27 (Lafayette Boulevard). Bear left going down the ramp. Turn left onto Lafayette. Go under I-95, and take the left onto Frontage Road (do not take the other left onto I-95 Northbound). Go one block and the Arena will be on your right.

FROM I-95 NORTHBOUND
I-95 North to Exit 27 (Lafayette Blvd.). At the bottom of the ramp continue straight along South Frontage Road past Lafayette Blvd. The next street is Broad Street. Go through the light and the Arena is directly in front of you.

FROM THE MERRITT PARKWAY SOUTHBOUND
From the Merritt Parkway, take Exit 52, Route 8 towards Bridgeport. Follow Route 8 to its convergence with Route 25. Follow Routes 8/25 to Exit 1. At the bottom of the ramp go left onto Prospect Street. Go past the State Police barracks and turn right (at 2nd light) onto Lafayette Blvd. Go under I-95 and make left onto South Frontage Road to Broad Street. Go straight at the light and the Arena is directly in front of you on the right hand side.

FROM THE MERRITT PARKWAY NORTHBOUND
From the Merritt Parkway, take Exit 49, Route 25 towards Bridgeport. Follow Route 25 to its convergence with Route 8. Follow Route 8/25 to Exit 1. At the bottom of the ramp go left onto Prospect Street. Go past the State Police barracks and turn right (at 2nd light) onto Lafayette Blvd. Go under I-95 and make left onto South Frontage Road to Broad Street. Go straight at the light and the Arena is directly in front of you on the right hand side.

TRAIN AND BUS
The Bridgeport Transportation Center is only a two-block, well-lit walk from Webster Bank Arena. This center is serviced by the Metro North Railroad New Haven line (800.638.7646) and Amtrak (800.872.7245) as well as the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority (203.333.3031), which provides frequent bus service to the Arena.