

TAFT COLLEGE

GRAD
UATION

REHEARSAL

CLASS OF 2024

COMMENCEMENT AGENDA!

Date: Friday, May 17th

Location: Taft Union High School's Merion Martin Memorial Stadium; located on San Emidio Street between Wildcat Way and 10th Street.

5:30pm - Check-in by Taft Union High School Pool.

6:00pm - Gates will open for Guests

6:30pm - Graduates line up for Commencement

7:00pm - Commencement Begins

2024 GRADUATION RULES

- Commencement is formal event & an academic tradition where you will be publicly recognized for your academic accomplishments. **Note:** Wear flat shoes. High heels are not recommended because they will sink in the grass.
 - Only wear regalia purchased from the bookstore. The Regalia package includes black gown, cap, and a tassel. You must have a gown to commence. Gowns must be zipped up.
 - Anyone not complying with dress code may be asked to leave.
 - Remember participation in graduation is a privilege and not a right.
 - If you show up late you must still check-in at the Taft Union High School Pool. You may not be seated if it will disrupt the ceremony.
 - Turn off all cell phones or place them on vibrate.
 - Do not report to check-in under the influence of anything. That means do not come inebriated or under the influences of drugs.
 - Participation in the ceremony does not guarantee that you will receive your diploma or certificate. You must complete the requirements for your academic program. You will receive an email from the Admissions & Records office that will inform you if you have met the necessary academic requirements and when your diploma or certificate is available for pick-up.
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GRADUATION CHECK-IN PROCESS

Graduates' check-in is at the Taft Union High School Pool from 5:30-6:30pm. All graduates need to arrive by 6pm.

Upon check-in, you will receive a commencement program and be given a name card. You will hand the name card to the card reader when you go to the stage.

Verify that everything is correct on your name card. We recommend you spell your name phonetically on the card. Your name card will only have one degree listed. If you want a different degree listed than on your name card, please inform check-in.


Leave purses, backpacks, or any other bulky items with your guests.

Air horns, confetti, silly string, balloons, or beach balls are not allowed.

If you have an emergency and must leave the field, please check with a staff member before leaving. If you leave the ceremony, you will not be permitted to return.

No children or any other person will be allowed to accompany you onto the field.

If you require an escort or assistance due to mobility issues, please contact [\(661\)763-7741](tel:6617637741).



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The Commencement Usher Leads will be college administrators.

You will line up single file and follow the ushers into the stadium. Please stay at arm's length from the person in front of you; do not walk side by side.

If you have mobility or accessibility issues, contact the Admissions & Records office at (661)763-7741 for specific information about check-in and accommodations.

Keep the lines moving during the processional and pay attention to your usher and the line. If the line moves, move with it. Do not stop during the processional for any reason, including pictures.

When Pomp and Circumstance (graduation walking song) starts you will begin walking onto the field toward the seating area. Stay arm's length from the person in front of you and follow the ushers. The ushers will take care of you during graduation walk and flow. Make sure that you fill each seat in your row and do not leave any empty seats. Move toward the end of the row as quickly as possible.

Remain standing throughout the flag salute and the national anthem.

COMMENCEMENT CONT.

After the speakers are complete, it will be time to present degrees and certificates. Ushers will tell you when it's your row's turn to go to the stage. Make sure you take your name card with you, as this goes to the card reader.

Professional photographers will take your picture before you go on to the stage and as you receive your diploma cover. Please follow the directions of the ushers who will tell you where to line up for the photo.

After your photo is taken, you will go onto the stage, shake the hand of the dignitary, and collect your diploma cover. You will walk off the stage and return to your seat.

Follow the directions given to you by the college president. After everyone has gone across the stage the college president will confer degrees by asking you to stand and will instruct you to move your tassel from left to right.



GUEST INFORMATION

Guests are free to take photos from their seats, but they are not allowed to enter the field or stage area until the end of the ceremony.

Smoking and vaping is not permitted when on the Taft Union High School campus.

Water will also be available for purchase at the entrance.

To ensure the enjoyment of our guests; air horns, confetti, silly string, balloons, beach balls, large signs or other distracting items are not permitted.

Disclaimer: Once the Home side of the stadium fills up, it will be closed, and guests will be forced to sit on the Visitor side. If your guests want to sit on the Home side, we recommend they arrive early.

ACCESSIBILITY

We will have a guest area specifically for our guests needing access. Guests needing accessibility are only allowed one assistant to accompany them to sit in the designated seating area. Please let someone know at the entrance if you need assistance.

Accessible parking spots are available in front of the stadium on the Home and Visitors sides. Additional accessible parking spots are available in the parking lot on N. Tenth St and San Emidio St.

FAQ

Can I Decorate My Cap for Commencement?

Yes! Decorations are not to exceed 3 inches high and the dimensions of the cap. No offensive decorations.

What Side Should My Tassel Be On?

Your tassel should be on the left side. You will be told to move your tassel to the right at the end of the ceremony.

Will A Photographer Be There/When Will Photos Be Available?

Professional photographers will be on hand to capture the event. Photos and a recording of the event will be available approximately 5 weeks after the event. You will receive an email with the links when they are ready.

When Will I Receive My Diploma/Certificate?

Fall 2023 Grads: If you haven't picked yours up, it is available at Admissions & Records.

Spring 2024 Grads: You will receive an email regarding your eligibility and when diplomas/certs are available towards the end of July.

Summer 2024 Grads: You will receive an email regarding your eligibility and when diplomas/certs are available in October.

How Long is Commencement?

The ceremony will last about two hours.

Do Guests Need Tickets?

No, all guests are welcome.
