Commencement 2013
Frequently Asked Questions

When is graduation?
Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Graduates should arrive no later than 5:30 p.m. to begin line up.

Where is the graduation ceremony?
This year’s graduation will be held on the Falcon Hall North Lawn. In the case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held inside in the Falcon Hall Gymnasium.

How long is the ceremony?
The graduation ceremony begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. and usually lasts two hours.

Do I have to stay for the whole ceremony?
Yes. After receiving your diploma jacket from the president of the College, you will be directed back to your seat.

When do I pick up my cap and gown?
Caps and gowns will be distributed on Monday and Tuesday, May 13th and 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Dutchess Hall, Room DEL.

Do I have to return my cap and gown?
No. They are yours to keep.

What is an honors stole?
If you have an overall grade point average of 3.2 or higher, you may purchase an honors stole for $15.00 when you pick up your cap and gown. If you are a member of Phi Theta Kappa, you may purchase a stole directly from PTK.

How many guests can I bring?
Guests on the Falcon Hall North Lawn are unlimited; although, if there is inclement weather, only two guests are permitted inside the gym and only with a rain admit ticket, as space is limited. No exceptions.

Where is the graduation ceremony held if it rains?
The ceremony will be held in the Falcon Hall Gymnasium if there is inclement weather. A decision will be made by 10:00 a.m. on graduation morning as to where the commencement ceremony will be held. You can find out this information by going to the DCC website, www.suny dutchess.edu, by listening to local radio stations, or by calling 431-8003.

How do I get rain admit tickets?
Each student will receive two rain admit tickets when they pick up their caps and gowns. Only two tickets will be given to each student; there will be no exceptions, as space is limited. This includes small children and infants. Lost tickets will not be replaced.
What if I have more than two guests?  
Guests will be able to see the ceremony simulcast from Dutchess Hall in the James and Betty Hall Theatre, East Lounge and Room 205, in addition to first floor classrooms in Washington Hall.

Will graduation be shown on the Web?  
The graduation ceremony will be streaming live at www.livestream.com/DutchessCC.

What is the line of march?  
This card will be given to you when you pick up your cap and gown. The label will have your name and line placement location for the graduation procession and seating. The other use for this card is for the reader once you are on stage. You will give this to the dean as you go on stage and then the academic dean will read your name as you receive your diploma. If your name is often mispronounced, please write it phonetically above your name on the label. They keep the cards and give them all to the photographer after the ceremony. You must bring this card with you.

Is there a rehearsal?  
No. The processional is quite simple. You will be given a line of march card when you pick up your cap and gown. This card shows you where to line up by row and seat number. When the ceremony begins, a faculty marshal will lead the procession and you will be ushered to your seats.

When do I receive my diploma?  
Your actual degree or certificate will be mailed to you several weeks after the ceremony.

What do the different colored tassels mean?  
The colored tassels are indicative of the academic area or degree for which you are graduating: white for A.A., yellow for A.A.S., gold for A.S., and blue for certificate programs. This tassel is also a keepsake of the ceremony. It should be worn on the right side of the cap.

Will there be a photographer?  
GradImages will be taking photos as you receive your diploma jacket. You can access your photos at GradImages.com.

What should I wear?  
As your gown will be covering your attire, there is no formal dress code. The commencement ceremony is planned for outside. Please be aware that wearing heels might cause problems if the ground is soggy.

Where do I park?  
General parking is available in Lots D and E. For your assistance, we have arranged to have shuttle buses run from the lots to the graduation site.

Is there handicapped parking?  
Handicapped parking will be available in Lot A for students and guests with a handicap placard only.