

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to apply for Graduation?

- Yes. All students intending to graduate must submit a graduation application by the deadline for their expected graduation semester.
- Please refer to the **Applying for Graduation** section for specific deadlines.
- Submission of a graduation application is required regardless of whether a student plans to participate in the commencement ceremony, as it allows the University to complete the degree review and checkout process.

Can I walk in a current commencement ceremony and complete my degree requirements in a future term?

- No. Students may participate only in the commencement ceremony corresponding to the semester in which they complete all degree requirements.

What is the charge to apply for Graduation?

- The graduation fee is \$100 and is required for all graduating students, including those who choose not to participate in the commencement ceremony.

What does the graduation fee include?

- The fee covers expenses related to processing and mailing diplomas, as well as the production of the commencement ceremony.

How do I know if I am graduating with honors?

- Degrees with honor are based on performance in all undergraduate academic work completed at Athens State University, with the exception of any coursework excluded by course forgiveness or academic bankruptcy.
- To be eligible for a degree with honor, a student must have completed at least 31 undergraduate semester hours at the University, not including coursework excluded by course forgiveness or academic bankruptcy.

The following honors may be awarded to undergraduate students:

- **Summa Cum Laude** – Awarded to graduating students with institutional GPAs of 3.9 to 4.0.
- **Magna Cum Laude** – Awarded to graduating students with institutional GPAs of 3.70 to 3.89.
- **Cum Laude** – Awarded to graduating students with institutional GPAs of 3.50 to 3.69.
- Because final semester grades may not be available in time for commencement or printed programs, honor designations announced at the ceremony are unofficial.
- Official honors are determined once all final grades have been posted. These final honors are then recorded on the Athens State transcript and printed on the Athens State diploma.
- Please contact the Registrar's Office at registrar@athens.edu with any questions regarding your GPA.

If I am graduating with honors (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Cum Laude), do I get my honor medallion from your office?

- No. Honor medallions are available for purchase through the Pillar & Paw Spirit Store, located on the second floor of the Sandridge Student Center.
- Medallions will also be available for purchase on graduation day.

How do I get stoles and cords?

- Stoles and cords worn during graduation are provided by the clubs and organizations they represent. Students who are members of a club or honor society should contact their organization's sponsor or officers for more information.

Can I wear a custom-made stole?

- Athens State University supports the wearing of custom-made stoles.

Can I decorate my cap?

- Athens State University supports the decoration of graduation caps for the commencement ceremony.
- The university encourages this as a positive and celebratory form of self-expression, while also maintaining respect for all participants.

What should I wear under my cap and gown?

- Commencement is a formal academic ceremony. At minimum, attire should be business casual, such as a collared shirt and slacks, or a dress or skirt, along with comfortable walking shoes.
- Graduates should be prepared to walk from Educational Building A to the church, which may involve navigating steps depending on weather conditions.

Where do I pick up my cap and gown, and hood, if applicable?

- You may order online through our vendor by the designated deadline: colleges.herffjones.com/college/athensstate.
- These items are also available at the Pillar & Paw Spirit Store, which is located on the second floor of the Sandridge Student Center; however, online purchasing is not available through the store. Pillar & Paw will also have regalia available for purchase on graduation day.

What is the correct way to wear my hood for my master's degree?

- In the line-up room on Graduation Day, the Dean of Colleges will demonstrate how to properly carry your hood during the procession.
- During the ceremony, you will be hooded by the Dean of Colleges and the Provost/VP for Academic Affairs.

How many guests can I bring to the ceremony?

- **Tickets are required for the ceremony.**
Due to limited seating, each graduate participating in the ceremony will be able to order up to **SIX** tickets.
- The link to reserve tickets will be provided via your @athens.edu email account. The ticket link will be live July 14-17, 2026.
- Tickets must be reserved by the July 17th deadline. Tickets may not be available after July 17th.
- If additional tickets are needed, graduates may wish to contact fellow graduates to inquire about any unused tickets that may be available.
- Guests without tickets will not be admitted.

When can I expect to receive my diploma?

- Once final grades have been posted and degrees have been awarded, you will receive an electronic copy of your diploma from [Parchment](#).
- You will have 72 hours to verify the mailing address on file, which is the address provided on your graduation application.
- After address verification, your printed diploma should arrive within 7–10 business days.

Are food and/or beverages allowed in the ceremony venue?

- No. Food and beverages are not permitted in the sanctuary.
- As guests of Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, all attendees are expected to follow the venue's policies.

Are flowers and/or balloons available for purchase?

- Flowers will be available for purchase at the ceremony.
- Balloons, however, will not be available for purchase and are not permitted inside the sanctuary.
- As guests of Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, attendees are expected to comply with the venue's policies.