

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 1. What are the Spring Commencement participation requirements?

Apply and pay **ONLINE for Commencement**. See Commencement webpage for details.  
Deadline to apply – Friday, April 6, 2018.

## 2. When and where will the Commencement Ceremony be held?

There are four (4) ceremonies as follows:

**Thursday, May 3, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.** for Associate Degree graduates – **last names beginning A-L.**  
*Graduates arrive no later than 9:15 a.m.*

**Thursday, May 3, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.** for Associate Degree graduates – **last names beginning M-Z.**  
*Graduates arrive no later than 1:15 p.m.*

**Friday, May 4, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.** for ALL Associate in Science/Applied Science Degree graduates.  
*Graduates arrive no later than 9:15 a.m.*

**Friday, May 4, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.** for ALL Bachelor's Degree graduates.  
*Graduates arrive no later than 1:15 p.m.*

All ceremonies will be held at the Havert L. Fenn Center – 2000 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, (approximately one (1) mile east of the IRSC Main Campus).

Each 90-minute ceremony will begin promptly at its designated time.

***Graduates arrive 45 minutes prior to their ceremony and remain for the entire event.***

## 3. What does the Commencement fee cover?

The Commencement fee covers the cost of your regalia (cap/gown/tassel/diploma cover).

## 4. When and where can I pick up my Commencement regalia (cap and gown)?

All Commencement regalia will be available for pick up beginning Monday April 23, 2018. Regalia should be picked up at the campus you designated during the online order process.

- Graduates must present a **photo ID** in order to pick up regalia and admission tickets.
- Members of U.S. Armed Forces\* must present a **military ID** to receive military cords.
  - \*Armed Forces (Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, Retired)

## 5. How can I purchase Commencement announcements?

Commencement announcements will be available for purchase at all IRSC bookstore locations.  
Call 1-877-770-2665 for more information.

## 6. How will I know if my name will be printed in the Commencement program?

Your name will be printed in the program if you apply for Commencement by the deadline date - Friday, April 6, 2018.

## 7. I belong to an Academic/ Honor Society organization. Can I wear my cords, stole or pin at the Commencement Ceremony?

Yes, in additions to IRSC regalia (cap, gown, tassel), cords, stoles, medallions and/or pins from Academic/Honor Society organizations recognized by the College can be worn during the ceremony.

- IRSC Honor, High Honors, Highest Honors
- Phi Theta Kappa
- All Florida Academic Team
- IRSC Honors Program
- Sigma Beta Delta/Business
- Kappa Delta Pi/Education
- Honor Society for Nursing
- Military Distinction
- Emerging Leaders

#### **8. How will I know if I am graduating with Honors?**

College credit coursework attempted at IRSC as well as at other post-secondary institutions will be used in the calculation of your grade point average for graduation and Honors. Graduates will be notified of Honors status via their IRSC email and a posting on the Commencement webpage.

#### **9. What are the Honors designations and how will I be recognized?**

The Honors designations are:

Summa Cum Laude – Highest Honors – cum GPA of 3.85 to 4.0

Magna Cum Laude – High Honors – cum GPA of 3.7 to 3.84

Cum Laude – Honors – cum GPA of 3.5 to 3.69

Honors recipients will wear gold cords and tassels and be acknowledged as they walk across the stage during the Ceremony.

#### **10. Who needs a ticket to attend the ceremony?**

All guests, regardless of age will need a ticket to enter the Fenn Center. Each graduate will be allotted four (4) admission tickets.

#### **11. Does a baby or a young child need a ticket?**

Everyone entering the Fenn Center needs a ticket, regardless of age.

#### **12. When will I receive my tickets?**

You will receive (4) tickets for your specific ceremony when you pick up your Commencement regalia at the IRSC bookstore. Please make sure that your packet contains all four (4) tickets.

#### **13. How can I get extra tickets?**

Monitor the IRSC website and your RiverMail email for announcements regarding the availability of extra tickets the week prior to Commencement.

#### **14. What should I wear under my regalia?**

Men should wear dress shirt, tie, dark slacks, and dark dress shoes. Women should wear a dark dress or dress slacks and dark dress shoes. For your own safety and comfort, women should not wear high-heeled and/or open-toe dress shoes. Closed-toe low heels and/or flats are strongly recommended.

#### **15. What do I do if I lose part of my regalia before the Ceremony?**

If you are missing or lose part of your regalia before Thursday, May 3, 2018, go to the nearest IRSC bookstore for a replacement. If you find that you are missing regalia at the Ceremony, speak to a faculty member at your check-in location.

**16. Is there a place where I can leave my personal belongings during the Ceremony?**

No. Leave your personal belongings in your car or with a family member. The College and the Fenn Center cannot be responsible for securing your valuables.

**17. When should I arrive for the Commencement Ceremony?**

Graduates should arrive as noted below for their particular ceremony. Each graduate will receive a name card that he/she will hand to the presenter before crossing the stage to receive a diploma.

*Thursday, May 3, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.* for Associate Degree graduates – *last names beginning A-L.*  
*Graduates arrive no later than 9:15 a.m.*

*Thursday, May 3, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.* for Associate Degree graduates – *last names beginning M-Z.*  
*Graduates arrive no later than 1:15 p.m.*

*Friday, May 4, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.* for ALL Associate in Science/Applied Science Degree graduates.  
*Graduates arrive no later than 9:15 a.m.*

*Friday, May 4, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.* for ALL Bachelor's Degree graduates.  
*Graduates arrive no later than 1:15 p.m.*

Each 90-minute ceremony will begin promptly at its designated time. Graduates will be pre-seated.  
***Graduates arrive 45 minutes prior to their ceremony and remain for the entire event.***

**18. What if I arrive after my Ceremony begins?**

Go directly to the Information Desk in the lobby of the Fenn Center and a faculty member will escort you to the reserved seating area.

**19. Where do I report?**

All graduates report through the side/south entrance of the Fenn Center. Follow the signs to your check-in area and check in with the faculty member in charge.

Check in will be by last name and each graduate will receive a pre-printed information card with his/her full name and any appropriate honors designation. Hand this card to the faculty or administrator reading names before you walk across the stage to be recognized.

**20. What types of degrees will be awarded at the Commencement Ceremony?**

Associate in Arts (A.A.) degrees will be awarded on Thursday, May 3 at both the 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ceremonies.

Associate in Science (A.S.)/Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees will be awarded on Friday, May 4 at the 10:00 a.m. ceremony.

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) degrees will be awarded on Friday, May 4 at the 2:00 p.m. ceremony.

***Click on this [link](#) for a complete listing.***

**21. When will I receive my diploma?**

Diplomas will be mailed to all Spring graduates beginning June 1, 2018.

**22. I am a graduate and/or someone in my family requires Special Accommodations. Whom can I contact for assistance?**

Graduates and/or family members requiring special accommodation should contact Accessibility Services at least one (1) week prior to Commencement at [accessibilityservices@irsc.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@irsc.edu) or call 772-462-7782.

**23. When should my family and guests arrive for the Commencement Ceremony?**

Family and guests should plan to arrive at least one (1) hour prior to the start of the Ceremony which begins PROMPTLY at the times noted above. They should expect a heavy volume of traffic and allow time to park and walk to the Ceremony site.

**24. Where do guests, family and friends enter the Fenn Center?**

Guests, family and friends should use the front/main/east entrance.

**25. Are guests, family and friends allowed to bring water, cameras, or video cameras into the Fenn Center?**

Yes, however balloons and/or air horns are NOT allowed.

**26. Are there special parking and seating areas for individuals needing Special Accommodations?**

Yes.

**27. Are there other Special Accommodations available?**

Yes, a sign language interpreter will be visibly located and signing during the Ceremony.

**28. How long does the Ceremony last?**

The Commencement Ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes. Guests and graduates are expected to remain for the entire Ceremony. If you plan to make lunch or dinner reservations following the Commencement Ceremony, give yourself ample time as there will be traffic delays.

**29. Will there be photographs available of graduates?**

Professional photographers will take no-obligation photographs of all graduates during the Commencement Ceremony. One photo will be taken as each graduate is congratulated by the President of Indian River State College and a second photo is taken in front of the American Flag immediately after leaving the stage. Information on how to order photos can be found on the **Grad Images** website. *Click [here](#) for more information.*

**30. Are there places to stay in the area?**

Go to the IRSC Commencement webpage and scroll down to the [Local Hotel Accommodations](#) link.

**31. How do I join the Indian River State College Alumni Association?**

All new IRSC graduates receive a complimentary one-year membership to the IRSC Alumni Association. To activate your membership, send an email to [irscalumni@irsc.edu](mailto:irscalumni@irsc.edu).

**32. I have other questions - whom do I contact?**

Call the IRSC Information Call Center at 1-866-792-4772.

