Congratulations! We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to the 2020 Spring Commencement Ceremony as we celebrate your academic achievements and lasting contributions at HGTC. This year’s ceremony will take place at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center on May 13, 2020 at 3:00pm.

IMPORTANT DATES

• March 1 – Graduation Applications are due to the Registrar’s office for Spring 2020 graduates.
• April 1 – Last day Graduation Applications will be accepted for name to be included in commencement program.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremony participants must be one of the following:
• December 2019 graduate
• May 2020 graduate
• Students scheduled to graduate in August 2020

**Students with questions concerning eligibility should check with their Academic Advisor or contact the Registrar’s office: registrar@htgc.edu**

CAP AND GOWN

• Deadline to purchase your cap and gown is May 1 in order to be eligible to walk at commencement.
• Caps and gowns must be purchased through our HGTC Barnes & Noble bookstores beginning March 17, 2020. HGTC will be using royal blue caps and gowns this year. Black regalia will not be permitted.

TICKETS

• Graduation Application must be on file to receive tickets.
• Must bring student ID to receive tickets.
• All students who have purchased a cap and gown will receive a maximum of 5 guest tickets.
• Each individual requires a ticket. This includes children of all ages.
• Ticket distribution will take place in the Registrar’s Office in Conway, Building 1100, April 20–May 4. If students cannot come to Conway, ticket distribution will be in the Admissions Office, dates and times listed below:

Georgetown Campus
Tuesday, April 21, 11am–4pm
Wednesday, April 29, 1–5pm

Grand Strand Campus
Thursday, April 23, 11am–4pm
Monday, May 4, 1–6pm

**Students must obtain their tickets on one of the distribution dates above or at the Conway Campus Registrar’s Office.**
COMMENCEMENT DAY: MAY 13, 2020

- Participants are to arrive in Exhibit Hall A at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, 2101 Oak Street, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 no later than 1:00pm on May 13, 2020 in required regalia.
- The guest entrance will open at 2:00pm. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. (Traffic will be very heavy so it is important to plan arrival times accordingly.)
- It is important to note that the Myrtle Beach Convention Center and HGTC will not be responsible for any stolen or misplaced belongings. There will not be a secure place to leave student or guest personal items.

PRIOR TO CEREMONY

- Each program of study will have a sign indicating where students should line up and check in with the assigned HGTC employee in order to obtain your name card for the Commencement Ceremony.
- Staff will be present to assist students with any questions or concerns.
- 10 minutes prior to the ceremony time, students will be escorted out of Exhibit Hall A by program to take their seats.

CEREMONY ETIQUETTE

- The Commencement ceremony is a dignified event honoring student academic accomplishments.
- According to College policy, students are only permitted to walk across the stage for one earned degree, diploma or certificate.
- Once seated, out of courtesy for all graduates, candidates are asked to remain seated for the duration of the ceremony.
- Balloons and noisemakers are prohibited in the Auditorium.
- Once you receive your diploma/certificate you will not be permitted to leave until the entire ceremony is over.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Commencement programs will be available at all entrances and provided to each student at their seat.
- A photographer from GRAD IMAGES will take photos of each graduate receiving the congratulatory letter on the stage. **GRAD IMAGES will contact all graduates regarding the purchase of photos.
- Candidates and guests who need disability accommodations should notify the Office of Disability Services at 843-349-5249 at least two weeks in advance of the event. Individuals should bring their own wheelchairs or walkers, if they have limited mobility. Only one guest may accompany those who require wheelchair-accessible seating so as to secure enough seats for all guests with special needs.
- Please make sure that your address is up to date in your WaveNet account.
- Food, beverages, and smoking are not permitted in the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.
- Metal detectors and bag-checks will be in use.
- You will receive an email when your diploma is ready to be picked up. Diplomas will be available for pickup on the Conway campus in the Registrar’s office July 6–17, 2020.
- Commencement will be streaming live on HGTC’s Facebook page, facebook.com/gohgtc.

For additional information please email: commencement@hgtc.edu