Congratulations! We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to the 2020 Fall Commencement Ceremony as we celebrate your academic achievements and lasting contributions at HGT. This year’s ceremony will take place at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center on October 27, 2020 at 3:00pm.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- October 1 – Graduation Applications are due to the Registrar’s office for Fall 2020 graduates.
- October 16 – Last day Graduation Applications will be accepted for name to be included in commencement program.

**ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS**

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

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

**CAP AND GOWN**

- Deadline to purchase your cap and gown is October 20 in order to be eligible to walk at commencement.
- Caps and gowns will be available for purchase in the HGT bookstore once campus offices are permitted to provide face-to-face services for students and members of the public. They may also be purchased online at https://collegegrad.herffjones.com/site/descriptors. HGT 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, and submitted a valid graduation application, will be eligible to receive tickets. The College will provide information regarding the number of tickets that will be distributed to graduating students as more information related to circumstances related to COVID-19, such as social distancing, becomes available from sources including the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).
- 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, October 1–16. If students cannot come to Conway, ticket distribution will be in the Admissions Office, dates and times listed below:

  **Georgetown Campus**
  Tuesday, October 6, 11am–4pm
  Wednesday, October 14, 1–5pm

  **Grand Strand Campus**
  Thursday, October 8, 11am–4pm
  Monday, October 12, 1–6pm

**Students must obtain their tickets on one of the distribution dates above or at the Conway Campus Registrar’s Office.**
COMMENCEMENT DAY: OCTOBER 27, 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 October 27, 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.
- Commencement will be streaming live on HGTC’s Facebook page, facebook.com/gohtc.

For additional information please email: commencement@hgtc.edu