April 6, 2021 Commencement Update

ECU announces times for three in-person spring 2021 university commencement ceremonies

East Carolina University’s three in-person university ceremonies will be held at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on May 7.

The 9am and 1pm ceremonies will be for undergraduate students only. The 5pm ceremony will be for graduate and professional students only. All three ceremonies will be held in compliance with all federal and UNC System guidelines regarding the evolving nature of COVID-19. Masks will be required by all graduates and attendees and social distancing guidelines will be strictly enforced.

Each undergraduate degree awarding college (e.g., College of Business or College of Education) will participate in one of the two undergraduate ceremonies. The designation of which ceremony each college will participate in will be announced during the week of April 12-16 and will be based on the number of students completing the mandatory RSVP.

Ticket information, including specific ceremony time, ticket allotment per graduate and how to secure the tickets will be sent to each graduate that completed the RSVP form before the deadline and will be sent to the email they used on the form. Any graduating students who have not submitted an RSVP by April 9 will NOT be able to participate in the spring ceremony.

The Classes of 2020 are invited to attend these ceremonies as well and the ceremony they are assigned to will be based on the degree they earned in spring or fall 2020. For instance, a spring 2020 engineering graduate will participate in the same ceremony as the engineering graduates for the class of spring 2021.

Despite the easing of some restrictions by the North Carolina Governor’s Office, ECU will not host any in-person college or department ceremonies for spring 2021. The university continues developing these plans and more details will be shared with graduates and families as plans are finalized.

A specific RSVP process for faculty interested in attending any of the three ceremonies will be sent no later than April 20, 2021. Faculty are encouraged to wear regalia to the ceremony and will be assigned a seat in the faculty section of the stadium.

For additional updates in the coming weeks visit the ECU Commencement website. For specific questions, email commencement@ecu.edu.

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