

READING AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT SPEAKER



Reading Area Community College annually selects a graduating student to speak at commencement. The chosen student speaker will have the opportunity to represent the graduating class at Commencement on **Friday, May 9, 2025 at 2pm** at the Santander Arena.

PRESENTATION CRITERIA

Your graduation speech should be a ceremonial speech appropriate for the audience and the occasion. You will be speaking primarily for the class and to the class, but also to friends, family and the entire RACC community. Your speech could draw upon your experiences at RACC and the value of a community college education, but it should avoid focusing only on your own accomplishments and instead have a meaningful message for others. The speech should be three to five minutes in length.

All students eligible for May graduation who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher may apply for this honor to be commencement speaker.

If you are interested in speaking at May graduation:

- · All speeches must be submitted via email.
- Submit a typed copy of your speech. Your speech should be no more than 3-5 minutes in length.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

- Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and email address.
- Submit your contact information and speech here: Student Application Link by Friday, March 7, 2025.

Students whose speeches are selected as finalists will be asked to deliver the completed presentation before the Campus Life Committee on the afternoon of Monday, March 31 at 3pm.

The panel will select a presentation based on the following:

- appropriateness of the message
- appeal to a broad audience
- delivery
- mechanics

TOP 10 REASONS TO SPEAK AT GRADUATION

- 10. Inspire your fellow graduates.
- 9. Make your family cry.
- 8. Make everyone else laugh.
- 7. Get a great seat at graduation.
- 6. Tell everyone how you really feel.
- 5. Be the center of attention.
- **4.** Shake hands with the President before the rest of your class.
- **3.** Talk without being interrupted.
- 2. Practice what you learned in Speech class.
- 1. Get the last word. Finally. We mean it. Really.

It is the policy of Reading Area Community College to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam Era veteran in regard to the administration of all campus programs, services and activities and the admission of students, employment actions, or other sponsored activities. Furthermore it is RACC's policy not to tolerate harassment, of any type, including sexual harassment, of or by any employee, student, contractor, vendor, and/or visitor to Reading Area Community College. In addition it is the policy of Reading Area Community College not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX provides that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Sex discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual assault. Affirmative Action Officer, RACC, P.O. Box 1706, Reading, PA 19603 (610.372.4721). All colleges and universities, in compliance with the Pennsylvania College and University Security and Information Act of 1988 and the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act, are required to provide information regarding safety and security procedures and statistics on campus. A copy of this report is available by contacting the Director of Safety and Security, Room 159, Berks Hall. "Warranty Disclaimer. The College and lis affiliates hereby disclaim all warranties, whether express, implied or statutory, including, without limitation, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose employability, future employment, licensure, certification or availability of courses, program, instructors or curriculum