



# READING AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## COMMENCEMENT 2021

### INFORMATION FOR GRADUATES

#### **Hello Soon to be RACC Graduate!**

Let me be the first to congratulate you on achieving your degree at RACC! I know that you have worked very hard to get to this point and I am sure that you are very excited about the ceremony on Friday, May 7.

I hope by now you are familiar with the graduation link on the college's website that has all you need to know about Commencement: <https://www.racc.edu/student-life/graduation> .

I would also like to remind you of a few things.

- **ARRIVAL:** Graduates are expected to report to the Santander Arena by following times:
  - 9:30 AM. for the 10 AM ceremony
  - 2 PM for the 2:30 PM ceremony OR
  - 5:15 PM for the 6 PM ceremony.

The ceremonies will begin promptly at 10 AM, 2:30 PM and 6 PM.

The entrance to the arena will be the side door located on 8<sup>th</sup> and Penn Streets (this is the “Press Entrance” located next to the team store. Do not use the main entrance to the arena.)

The arena requires that we wear face masks covering the nose and mouth and maintain social distance while indoors. The arena staff will be conducting temperature checks upon entry. Please stay home if you have symptoms of COVID 19.

Please do not leave any valuables unattended at the arena.

- **CHECK IN:** When you arrive at the arena, you will need to find the check in area located on the ground floor. At the check in, you will receive your name card. Hold on to this card. During the ceremony, when it is time to present the graduates, the usher will guide your row to the stage. This is the card that you will give to the reader located at the right side of the stage. Your name will be read and you will proceed up to the stage to receive your diploma. Please note that children are not permitted to process with the graduates and must be seated in the spectator area with your guests.
- **SANITATION STATIONS:** Graduates will need to sanitize their hands prior to going on stage.
- **TICKETS:** Graduates who sent their RSVP by the April 20 deadline are guaranteed their first choice of ceremony time and two guest tickets. Graduates can pick up their guest tickets in the RACC Bookstore when they pick up their cap and gown. Tickets are required for all guests including children. Guests are seated in small groups of two to maintain distance. To safely host this indoor event, guests are subject to temperature checks, must wear face coverings properly, and maintain social distance.
  - The doors to the public will open an hour before the ceremony.

- Please be advised that the arena guests are subject to search and are prohibited from bringing certain items into their facility (see their website at <https://www.santander-arena.com/faqs> for more information).
- **CAPS AND GOWNS: You must wear a cap and gown if you plan to participate in the ceremony.** Please pick up your cap and gown from the RACC Bookstore ahead of time and bring it with you to the arena.

Cap and gowns will be available in the RACC Bookstore from April 26 through April 30 during the following times:

- **In store pick-up**  
Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 3 PM.  
Friday from 9 AM to 2 PM.
- **Curbside pick-up (come to the Bookstore side door)**  
Wednesday and Thursday from 3 PM to 6 PM.
- If you are not available during these times, please contact the Bookstore at 610.607.6229 to schedule another time or to make shipping arrangements. You will need to bring your cap and gown to the arena on the day of commencement.
- **PHOTOGRAPHER:** Individual pictures will be taken at Commencement. Students will be able to view them on the RACC website and purchase them directly from the photographer.
- **LIVESTREAM:** Each Commencement ceremony will be broadcast live on the college website so that family and friends who are not in attendance can watch and celebrate.
- **PARKING:** Parking is available at the Double Tree and South Penn Garages at a cost of \$2.00 per hour.
- **DIPLOMAS:** Diplomas will be mailed no later than August 15. Please make sure that your current address accurate in your RACC account. Contact the Records Office if you have any questions about your diploma or transcript.
- **NOTE:** All participants and guests should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. Those with any symptoms should remain home if feeling ill or after exposure to someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19.

**Congratulations Class of 2021!** We are looking forward to celebrating your academic accomplishments on May 7!

Wishing you all the best,

*Maria*

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