When is the Commencement ceremony?
The Commencement ceremony is on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 5PM.

Where does the ceremony take place?
The Commencement ceremony takes place in Falcon Stadium (Football Stadium) at Cerritos College.

Is there any paperwork a student needs to file to graduate?
Students will need to file the “Petition for Associate in Arts Degree and or Petition for Certificate of Achievement through the Admissions and Records office. Students can also file their petition with their counselor during an appointment.

How are Honors students identified?
Honors students who achieved a GPA of 3.3 to 3.69 will graduate “With Honors.” Those graduating with a GPA of 3.7 or higher will graduate with “With Highest Honors.” Honors students will be given a silver tassel when they purchase their cap and gown from the bookstore. The list for Honors students will be available by mid-April.

How will the person announcing the graduates’ names know the graduate is graduating with honors or highest honors?
At the gym the students will be asked to take a card to write their name on for the commencement readers to call out. Students should grab the appropriate card that reflects the GPA they have achieved.

What does a graduate need to do attend the ceremony?
After filling the petition the graduating students can go to the bookstore to purchase their cap and gown.

What does a graduate do in the time between filing the petition and commencement date?
The graduates can attend the Grad Fair at the bookstore to purchase their cap and gowns, announcements, class rings and other items through the bookstore.

What color cap and gown should a graduate purchase for the ceremony?
Students graduating with a certificate purchase a white cap and gown. Students graduating with an AA degree purchase a black cap and gown. If a student is achieving both a certificate and an AA degree, they are encouraged to purchase a black cap and gown.

Where do the graduating students meet?
The graduates meet in the gym before 4PM.

Where do the guests of graduates go?
The guests of graduates need to go directly to Falcon Field. The gates will open at 3:30PM.

How many guests can a graduate bring?
There is no limited to the number of guests that a graduate is allowed to bring.
Do the guests need a ticket to enter the Commencement ceremony?
There are no tickets required for the guests to attend the ceremony.

Is there anything not allowed during the ceremony?
There are no balloons or strollers allowed in the stadium. No confetti is allowed during the ceremony. Bags may be searched by campus police at the entrance of the stadium.

Where do the guests of graduates go?
The guests of graduates need to go directly to Falcon Field. The gates will open at 3:30PM.

Where can I park?
The graduates and guests of graduates can park in the C-1, C-2 and C-10 parking lots.

How much will parking cost?
Parking will be free in all student (white) stalls. All parking rules will be in effect.

Where can students and guests with disabilities park?
Students and guests with disabilities with a DMV approved placard can park in the parking lot in front of the stadium.

Will there be special seating for students and guests with disabilities?
Students and guests with disabilities are requested to contact Mary D’Ettorre, Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) at (562) 860-2451, x2352 a minimum of two weeks prior to commencement ceremony.

Is there a dress code for the graduates?
The graduates are strongly urged not to wear spike or high heels. The turf in the field is artificial! Wedge heels and flats work best.

Will there be a photographer for the event?
The graduates can take pictures in the gym before the ceremony. Photographers will be ready to start taking pictures at 3PM. This is optional. There will also be a photographer taking pictures of each graduate when they get their diploma with the College President/Superintendent or the College Board President. All pictures are taken through Grad Images.

Can a graduate decorate their caps for the ceremony?
The graduates are allowed to decorate their caps for the ceremony but the Cerritos College code of conduct applies.

Is the graduate allowed to wear medals or sashes?
If the graduates earned the medal and/or sash during the time they attended Cerritos College (for example Phi Theta Kappa and Scholars Honors Program graduates) they are more than welcome to wear those items.
What does a graduate do with their purse and jacket during the ceremony?
There will be a purse and coat check area in the gym for the graduates. The area will close half hour after the ceremony ends. If any items are left behind, graduates can pick the items up from campus police.

Will there be any items available for graduates in the gym to get ready for the ceremony?
There will be mirrors in the gym for graduates. A limited amount of bobby pins and safety pins will also be available for the graduates in the gym.

What else do the graduates need to know about the ceremony?
Ceremony will promptly start at 5PM. Graduates that arrive late will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony once the ceremony begins. Graduates are encouraged to plan ahead for traffic and other last minute issues that may arise.

Can a student that is graduating with a certificate sit with a friend that is graduating with an AA degree?
Students with black cap and gowns will be seated first and the students with white cap and gowns will be seated right behind them.

Is there another ceremony other than the college commencement ceremony for the graduates?
Each department may have their own celebration for the graduates. Please check with the department that you are earning your degree from to find out details.

Will all graduates receive their diplomas and/or certificates at the ceremony?
Each graduate will receive a diploma cover at the ceremony. When the certificate or diploma arrives Admissions and Records will notify the graduate to pick up their certificate or diploma from the Admissions and Records office.

Where can graduates meet with their families after the ceremony?
The graduates will be moved to the field house field behind the commencement stage. Families and friends of graduates will be able to move to that field to congratulate their graduates and take pictures.

Have more questions?
Please check the commencement webpage for more information: www.cerritos.edu/commencement If you have further questions, please stop by the Student Activities office, next to the bookstore between the hours of 8AM – 4:30PM, to talk to the staff in the office.