

December Grad Walk and Virtual Commencement Ceremony

Q&A

1. Will there be a December 2021 Commencement?

Yes, there will be a virtual commencement ceremony on Dec. 17 starting at 7pm. It will be streamed on the ACM Facebook page and later posted to the ACM YouTube Channel.

*There will also be a special in-person **Grad Walk** experience to honor graduates on Dec. 16 and Dec 17.*

2. What's a Grad Walk?

A Grad Walk is an in-person event that's ***not*** a traditional commencement ceremony. However it offers graduates the chance to be congratulated by college leadership while hearing their name and degree announced, take official graduation photos as well as selfies with their guests, and receive a special graduation gift from the college.

Reservations must be made in advance.

3. How do I register for the Grad Walk?

For the Dec. 16 and 17 Grad Walk, timeslots are available from 1-6 p.m. on a first come, first serve basis.

Students must reserve their special **Grad Walk experience timeslot** by calling 301-784-5005 or emailing info@allegany.edu by Dec. 14. To give all graduates and their guests a safe, celebratory experience, timeslots cannot be changed once reserved.

4. Where will the Grad Walk take place?

The Grad Walk will take place in the ACM Physical Education/Gym Building.

5. May I bring guests to the Grad Walk?

Yes, each graduate may have up to six guests in attendance.

6. Is there a deadline to apply for the Grad Walk?

Yes, graduates must reserve their Grad Walk experience timeslot by December 14th.

7. What will take place at the Grad Walk experience?

- Graduates and their guests will sign in before their reserved Grad Walk timeslot as part of the college's COVID-19 attestation.
- Graduates will be congratulated by college leadership while hearing their name and degree announced.
- They will have official graduation photographs taken.
- They'll also have the chance to take selfies at a special selfie station.
- Before leaving, they'll receive a special graduation gift from the college.

8. Will I receive my ACM diploma or certificate at the Grad Walk?

Yes, your diploma and/or certificates will be available for pickup if you have no outstanding obligations. If you are unable to attend the Grad Walk, these items will be mailed to your home residence in January. All graduates will be mailed a Commencement program in January.

9. Will there be COVID 19 Safety Protocols for the Grad Walk?

Yes. ACM is committed to creating a safe **Grad Walk** experience for everyone.

- ACM's Grad Walk is a limited in length and the number of attendees (Each graduate may bring up to 6 guests.) unlike traditional commencement exercises.
- All attendees, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face masks and adhere to the college's safety protocols.
- Individuals who have been exposed, show symptoms, or tested positive for COVID-19 may not come to campus to attend **Grad Walk** as part of the college's enhanced healthy and safety procedures.
- All attendees must sign a COVID-19 attestation when checking into the Grad Walk experience.

10. If I want to include my photo as part of the virtual ceremony, what do I need to do?

Students are responsible for submitting pictures of themselves, preferably in their caps and gowns, to gradsubmissions@allegany.edu by 12 p.m. on Dec. 15. Grad Walk photographs will not be available for use in the virtual commencement.

11. How can I learn more about the virtual commencement?

Students will receive an email communication to their ACM student email account outlining the details of the virtual commencement and the Grad Walk.

12. What will the virtual ceremony include?

- President Cynthia Bambara will open the program with a welcome to the candidates for graduation and their guests.
- Board of Trustees Chair Kim Leonard will offer greetings followed by remarks provided by student commencement speakers.
- Instructional and Student Affairs Senior Vice President Kurt Hoffman will present the candidates for graduation, assisted in his duties by commencement Grand Marshal Dr. Donna Brunelli and Assistant Grand Marshal Ray Hunt, both ACM professors and program directors.
- Faculty members will announce the names of the graduates as their individual recognition slides are shown.

13. How do I pick up my cap and gown?

Beginning on Nov. 8, graduates may pick up their graduation announcements, tassels, caps, and gowns at the Advising Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday prior to the virtual ceremony. Students from

outside of the area should contact Marianne Shedlock at mshedlock@allegany.edu or Anne Haynal at ahaynal@allegany.edu to have their announcements and regalia mailed or sent to the Bedford County Campus.

14. How can I submit or have my photo taken for the virtual commencement?

The college will professionally photograph students free of charge. They are asked to sign in with the photographer in the College Center lounge before being photographed outdoors and may only remove their face masks upon instruction from the photographer during their session. Unless indicated below, all photography dates and times are first-come, first-serve at the Cumberland Campus:

- Nov. 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the ACM Bedford County Campus, and
- Nov. 18 from 9:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the ACM Bedford County Campus.

15. What if these timeslots do not work for my schedule?

Additional timeslots may be scheduled by contacting Levi Feaster at lfeaster@allegany.edu. On the day of commencement, graduates are encouraged to take photos and videos celebrating their graduation and share them on social media using **#ACM2021grad**.

16. What if I have outstanding obligations?

If you have outstanding obligations with the Business Office, Financial Aid Office, the College Library, or Willowbrook Woods, you must reconcile those obligations to receive your diploma and/or certificates.