

Congratulations!

Class of 2026



Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 22, 2026

Dear Candidates and Graduates,

Congratulations on the momentous honor of being a Summer/Fall 2025 graduate or Spring 2026 degree candidate of Río Hondo College.

As a graduate or degree candidate you are invited to participate in the biggest event on campus to celebrate all your hard work and success, the Río Hondo College Commencement Ceremony.

This year we will be hosting our **63rd Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 22, 2026 at 9 a.m. in Student Parking Lot A.** On behalf of the Commencement Committee, we hope that you participate as well as invite your family and friends.

Please note that **Commencement Rehearsal is on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in Student Parking Lot A.**

It is important that you attend the rehearsal so that you can receive important information as well as ask any clarifying questions. You do not need to wear your graduation attire to rehearsal, but we do ask that you wear comfortable shoes for both the rehearsal and commencement ceremony.

Please ensure that you read through the Commencement Letter in its entirety. You will find important information on purchasing your cap and gown, parking information for the rehearsal and ceremony, and many other very important details that will help make this event an enjoyable experience.

Again, congratulations and I wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

Rosa Moncada
Director, Student Life & Civic Engagement

GRAD FEST

Thursday, May 7

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Upper Quad

REHEARSAL

Thursday, May 21

3 p.m.
Lot A

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Friday, May 22

9 a.m. • Lot A

Graduates and Candidates:

ARRIVE EARLY for Commencement: Plan to arrive by 8 a.m. You may park in any parking lot except Lots A, F and G. Report to the Grace F. Napolitano Quad. From the main campus, take the Science Building stairs to the 2nd floor, walk north to the Technology Quad. Please advise your family and friends that seating and parking is limited. And although tickets are required, it is advised to arrive early. Guest seating is opened at 8:00 a.m., but no one is allowed prior to that time.

Read Carefully!

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- **This will be a ticketed event. Graduates will be allocated one (1) grad ticket and six (6) guest tickets. Graduates will be able to pick up tickets at the Student Union starting May 7 through May 20, 2026.**
- It is important that you do not forget your cap and gown – **ONLY those wearing the appropriate CAP and GOWN will be allowed to participate.** You may purchase your cap and gown at the Río Hondo College Bookstore through May 21, 2026. Popular sizes do sell out, so it is advised to plan ahead.
- Grad Fest is **NOT** the only day designated to pick-up tickets/ graduation items.
- Neither the department of Student Life nor the President's Office provide stoles to students. Please check in with your respective programs to confirm availability and eligibility. Not all programs provide stoles to students.
- Only students on the official graduation list may order a cap and gown. No one is permitted to purchase one on your behalf unless you are present.
- In order for our guests to enjoy the event, **NO BALLOONS, BANNERS, UMBRELLAS or BLOWHORNS will be permitted.** You will be asked to leave these items in your car.
- **NOTE: the tassel on the cap goes on the right-hand side.**
- Please do not leave any valuable items in the Grad Check area or parking lot.
- Please note that inappropriate nicknames written on your name card will not be honored and may result in your name not being called during the commencement ceremony.
- The procession will be led to the graduation area in Student Lot A by Teresa Dreyfuss, Superintendent/President of Río Hondo College. Dr. Don Moya-Miller, Vice President/Assistant Superintendent of Academic Affairs, will lead the faculty and Alicia Kruizenga, Acting Vice President/Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, will lead the students to the graduation area. When you reach your chair, remain standing in front of it. Keep your hands to your sides. You will be standing during the flag salute. Graduates are to be seated at the same time as those on the stage.
- Follow the order of events in the program. You will be directed from the stage when to stand and when to be seated. Ushers will also be helping during the Commencement ceremony.
- At the appropriate point in the program, Dr. Moya-Miller, will present the graduates to the Río Hondo College Board of Trustees. President Dreyfuss will then receive the graduates and make a few comments on behalf of the Board. When directed to do so, you will then proceed to the stage area and give your name card to the announcer at the lectern. The announcer will **READ ONLY YOUR NAME.** When your name is called, you will proceed across the stage to receive your diploma case from a member of the Board of Trustees with your left hand and shake hands with your right hand. **REMEMBER, RIGHT HAND OVER LEFT HAND.** Then proceed off the stage and back to your seat.
- When the ceremony is over, you will be directed to stand. You will then follow the faculty to the reception area south of the ceremony seating. Please meet members of your family and friends in the reception area on the south side of the ceremony seating.



Graduation Photography

All students participating in the Río Hondo College commencement ceremony are advised that this is a public event. Professional photographers will be present: there is a commercial photographer who will take each student's photograph as they receive their diploma case; there will be news photographers present; there will also be photographs taken on behalf of the College for use in future College publications.

Diploma: ***CHECK YOUR NAME***

It is important that you make note of how your name is spelled on your unofficial transcripts. This is how it will appear in the printed program at commencement and on your diploma.

If there is a mistake, please immediately contact:

Jorge Ruiz, Admissions and Records Office
(562) 463 - 7638 or email: jruiz@riohondo.edu

Guest Information

General:

- Students and guests can park in all Lots, except for Lots A, F and G.
- Security guards will assist pedestrians walking to Parking Lot A, Security guards will provide traffic control, it is important that you comply with the security guards' instructions for your safety.
- No guest access is available from the Grace F. Napolitano Quad; please do not escort your graduate to the Graduate Check-in area, as you will not be able to access guest seating.
- Doors open at 8:00 a.m. No access to guest seating will be available prior to 8:00 a.m.
- We recommend that large groups of guests wishing to sit together arrive early. To accommodate all guests, saving seats will not be allowed.
- Children over the age of five will need a ticket to attend.
- Commencement Flowers and the Río Hondo College Bookstore will be available for purchase of items at the ceremony site.

Persons with Disabilities:

- Parking for persons with physical disabilities is available in all parking lots. However, special arrangements for drop off is provided in parking Lot A, north of the ceremony area. Follow signs and security guards' instructions for the drop off areas, parking and access to the ceremony seating area.

