CAN MY FAMILY TAKE PICTURES?
Photos may be taken from your seat in the War Memorial. Genesee Photo Systems will also be taking a photograph of each student as they receive their diploma. They will mail a color wallet-size proof to you at no cost. For a fee, the company will print additional photographs. You are under no obligation to purchase additional photos.

CAN WE PURCHASE A DVD OF THE CEREMONY?
Commencement DVDs are available for $10 each, and Time Warner Cable will air the ceremony as well. Dates and times will be printed in the Commencement program. Payment is due at the time of your order at Student Central. The deadline to order is June 4, 2010.

IF I NEED AN ACCOMMODATION SUCH AS AN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE, ENLARGED PRINT PROGRAM, ACCESSIBLE SEATING OR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Contact the Disabilities Services Office by Friday, April 30, at (315) 498-2245.

IF MY GUEST NEEDS THESE ACCOMMODATIONS, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Assistive listening devices, enlarged print programs, and a sign language interpreter will be available at the ceremony. If your guest requires wheelchair accessibility, please notify an usher who will direct you to the appropriate seating area. A limited amount of general seating is available in this section. If you need additional information, call the Disabilities Services Office at (315) 498-2245.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY DIPLOMA?
All graduates attending the ceremony are presented with a diploma cover. The actual diplomas (for May graduates) will be available by mid-July. You will be sent a postcard informing you of their availability. August and December 2009 graduates should already have picked up their diplomas from Student Central.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?
Visit the Commencement Web site for updates at students.sunyocc.edu, or visit an Enrollment Associate at Student Central. Also, graduation specialists will be available at Grad Central (within Student Central) to answer any questions you may have. Grad Central will be open 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 3 - 4 p.m. the weeks of April 12th and 26th.
Congratulations on your candidacy for graduation! Onondaga’s 47th Commencement Exercise will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at 3 p.m. at the War Memorial at Oncenter.

Commencement is truly a celebration of the future. The hard work and effort you have demonstrated in order to secure your degree shows a commitment to excellence that will serve you well as you continue to achieve your goals. You can be rightfully proud of your accomplishments.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN IS COMMENCEMENT?
Onondaga’s 47th Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at 3 p.m. The ceremony will be held at the War Memorial, 515 Montgomery Street, in downtown Syracuse. Graduates should report by 1:30 p.m.

WHERE DO WE PARK?
Parking (for a fee) is available at various parking garages and lots adjacent to the War Memorial.

HOW MANY TICKETS CAN I GET?
Seating at the War Memorial is ample, thus no tickets are needed for guests to attend. You may invite as many as you wish to join in celebrating your accomplishment. Onondaga provides a limited number of ceremony invitations as a courtesy, but they are not necessary to enter the ceremony.

WHAT DO I WEAR?
Wearing of the traditional academic gown and mortarboard is required for participation in the Commencement ceremony. Caps and gowns are available for purchase at the Onondaga bookstore during regular business hours starting April 12th. The cost is approximately $28. Please check with the bookstore as soon as possible to allow time to place an order in case they do not have your size in stock. Pick up your gown early and hang it up so that the wrinkles will “fall out.”

Corsages, jewelry, and other adornments should not be worn with academic gowns. Please do not carry a purse, valuables, cellular phone, or large amounts of money. Onondaga Community College is not responsible for storage of any of these items during the ceremony.

The mortarboard should be worn level, not on the back of the head. Women never remove their mortarboards during the ceremony. Men must remove their mortarboard for the national anthem, invocation, and benediction, and only as instructed.

Tassels are worn on the right side toward the back of the mortarboard, not in front of your face. During the ceremony, you will be instructed when to move the tassel from the right of the mortarboard to the left.

I’M GRADUATING WITH HONORS, ARE THERE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ME?
Students graduating with honors (3.4 cumulative GPA or higher) will receive a gold cord at graduation check-in.

I’M A MEMBER OF PHI THETA KAPPA, IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO KNOW?
Phi Theta Kappa gold tassels are available at Student Central, in Gordon Student Center, at no charge and stoles can be purchased at Student Central for $18 each. These items designate you as a PTK member. Neither are mandatory. They are available if you choose to wear them for the ceremony.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN THAT DAY?
Upon arrival at the War Memorial, graduates should follow the signs to the lower level to check in. At check-in, you will pick up your name card and be asked to check the spelling of your name. If you have a difficult name to pronounce, you will be instructed to write it phonetically. Volunteers will be on hand to assist.

HOW DO WE LINE UP?
Graduates line up by curriculum. There will be signs directing you to the appropriate area for each curriculum. Lineup will begin at 2:30 p.m., but we ask you to get to the War Memorial by 1:30 p.m. in order to check-in and find your curriculum area.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE CEREMONY?
After the welcome and remarks made by graduation speakers, you will be directed to stand and approach the stage. When it is your turn, you will hand the reader your name card. Pause a moment at the podium for your name to be read, and then proceed across the stage to receive a diploma cover from President Sydow. Please adhere to appropriate decorum during the ceremony.

After the ceremony you will be directed toward the back entrance of the War Memorial onto Adams Street where you can meet up with family and friends.