



MILES COLLEGE
P. O. BOX 39800
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35208

Office of the President

MEMORANDUM

To: All Prospective Candidates for Graduation, Class of 2026

From: Kenneth Coachman
Chief of Staff/2026 Commencement Committee

Re: Commencement 2026

Date: February 10, 2026

This memorandum is the official notification of activities sponsored in connection with Miles College Commencement Exercises, Class of 2026, which will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center (BJCC) complex, East Meeting Hall, 2100 Richard Arrington Blvd. North, Birmingham, AL 35203. All candidates who have been cleared for graduation are required to participate in the commencement exercises.

Graduation Fee

Your class/graduation fee of \$300.00 is due by April 15, 2026. Please pay this amount to the Business Office, where a special account has been established for the senior class. Students who have not paid by the deadline will not participate in the senior activities. Dues must be paid on time because plans must be finalized with those who provide services. Please do not try to be included in activities if you have not paid on time as requested. Dues will pay for the following:

- Cap, Gown and Tassel
- Degree/Degree cover
- Senior activities (stage picture, etc.), and
- Senior tee shirts
- Kente' Stole (with Class of 2026 letters)

Division Chair

You must schedule an exit interview with your division chair to report:

- your career plan/position (graduate school, employer, etc.) and
- your permanent address.

Founders' Day

Founders' Day will be March 13, 2026, 11:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church Fairfield, AL. All candidates for graduation are required to attend.

Ladies are required to wear black dresses/suits (shoulders must be covered, no strapless tops), black hosiery, and black shoes (pump or sling, closed toe, no sandals). Men are required to wear black or navy blue suits, white shirts, black string or regular ties, and black shoes.

NOTE: Ladies and Gentlemen -- earrings, sunglasses, Bluetooth earpieces, and purses are not permitted. Please silence your cell phones.

Commencement

Graduation is a "highly," revered academic ceremony. Your poised and timely presence at this ceremony is URGED, and we respectfully ask that you and your families not detract from the dignity of the ceremony with loud shouts that disallow recognition of all students whose names should be heard. **Permission to receive the degree in absentia must be cleared by April 6, 2026 through special permission of the Provost.**

Measurements for Regalia

Measurements for Regalia will be taken in the Mail Room located in Brown Hall 1st floor. The last day to be measured will be March 20, 2026. Regalia will be ready for distribution beginning April 20, 2026. Gowns should be steamed or pressed.

Attire

Again, please understand that commencement is a highly, traditional ceremony that requires special, traditional dress. Miles College graduates are expected to follow this tradition. Therefore, there will be two types of attire that will be allowed at commencement.

Commencement Attire Option #1:

White dresses and black shoes (pump or sling, closed-toe, or peep toe, no sandals).

Commencement Attire Option #2:

Black pants, white shirts, black string or regular ties (no bow ties), black trouser socks, and black dress shoes.

*This attire is for all occasions on which cap and gowns are worn. (Baccalaureate and Commencement)

Kente Stole

All 2026 graduates will receive a Kente Stole as part of the graduation fees that will be issued May 9, 2026. (Commencement Day)

Organizational Stoles

No custom caps or stoles will be permitted. There will be no alterations to the graduation caps before the commencement. Students wishing to personalize their caps are free to do so after the graduation ceremony.

Miles College **sanctioned** fraternities, sororities, and other organizations will be permitted to provide their own organizational stole.

NOTE: Ladies and Gentlemen--earrings, sunglasses, Bluetooth earpieces, and purses are not permitted. Please silence your cell phones.

Tassel

The tassel is to be worn on the right side of the cap until the degree has been conferred. Upon receiving the degree, the tassel is then shifted to the left side of the cap. (The President will tell you when to change the tassel.)

Time

It is crucial that all candidates report on time for the ceremony. The procession will move promptly at the scheduled time, so please anticipate emergencies and leave home at least thirty (30) minutes earlier than you consider necessary. Graduating seniors must report as follows:

<p>Baccalaureate Service Friday, May 8, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. First Baptist Church 324 59th Street Fairfield, AL 35064 Report for Processional at 10:00 a.m. Miles College Gymnasium Attire: Same as Graduation</p>	<p>Graduation, Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center (BJCC) complex, East Meeting Hall, 2100 Richard Arrington Blvd. North, Birmingham, AL 35203 Report to East Meeting Hall at 8:00 a.m. for check in and class photo.</p>
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Rehearsals

First rehearsal Friday, April 24, 2026, in Brown Hall Auditorium from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. and the final rehearsal will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center (BJCC) complex, East Meeting Hall at 6:00 p.m. **No food, drinks, or gum. Please do not bring children, family members, or friends to rehearsals.** Rehearsals are closed. Only the graduating class and Miles College administration are permitted to attend.

Procession

Candidates will be assigned permanent places in the graduation procession at the May 9, 2026. Specific instructions for the procession will be given at rehearsals.

Ceremony

During the graduation ceremony, all candidates will remain standing until the chief marshals have indicated places for all platform guests and the appropriate chord is sounded by the organ. **During the service, men will remove their caps at the time that the Dean of Chapel removes his cap.**

Conferring of Degrees

Following President Knight's charge to the graduating class, she will recognize the Provost, who will present the candidates for the **BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE** first, asking them to stand for the conferring of degrees. After the president utters the final words "with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining", the candidates will immediately grasp the tassel of the caps and transfer them to the left side of their caps. The candidates for the **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE** are then presented and follow the same procedure. The candidates for the **BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION** are then presented and follow the same procedure. The candidates for the **BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK** are then presented and follow the same procedure.

Degrees

The degree cover will be issued to candidates as they walk across the platform according to the seating arrangement. The degree will be issued at the close of the ceremony. Additional details will be given during final rehearsal.

Cap, Gown, and Tassel

Cap, gown, and tassel are yours to keep. Please have your gown steamed or pressed.

Honors Cords

Pick-up: Wednesdays

Location: 4th Floor of the LRC

Time: 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

*Please see Mrs. B. Underwood

Admission Tickets: Tickets will be issued.

The event will be live-streamed.

Senior events and commencement updates will be posted on the web page.

Cc:

President Bobbie Knight
Kenneth Coachman, Chief of Staff
Candice Hardy, Director of Learning Resources Center
Dr. Tonya Perry, Provost
James Aaron Pierre, Director of Alumni Affairs
Joyce Dugan Wood, Registrar
Betty Underwood, Retention Specialist

Division Chairs
Cabinet Members
Senior Class Advisors
Security
2026 Commencement Committee
Director of Mail Services