



EVERGREEN VALLEY
COLLEGE

2026

GRADUATION GUIDE





EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE

3095 Yerba Buena Road, San Jose CA, 95135

Dear Class of 2026,

On behalf of the San José Evergreen Community College District, Chancellor, Dr. Beatriz Chaidez, President, Dr. Vinicio J. López and the Evergreen Valley College faculty, classified professionals, and administrators, it is our distinct honor to invite you to participate in the 2026 Evergreen Valley College Commencement Ceremony. This is a moment of great celebration, recognizing one of life's most meaningful achievements — becoming a college graduate.

We are filled with pride as we reflect on the dedication, resilience, and perseverance you have demonstrated to reach this milestone. Your commitment to your education, even in the face of challenges, reflects not only your personal dreams but also the hopes of those who have supported and believed in you along the way.

The determination you have shown at Evergreen Valley College is a strong foundation for your future. Whether you are transferring to a four-year university, advancing into a meaningful and life-sustaining career, or creating greater opportunities for your family, we are confident that you will continue to make a lasting impact. We look forward to witnessing the many contributions you will make to your communities and beyond.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate your achievement and this important transition in your journey.

Congratulations, Class of 2026 — this moment is yours.

Every Good Wish,

Evergreen Valley College



*Congratulations
Class of 2026*

EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE
2026 COMMENCEMENT



FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026

6:00 PM

EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE
SOCCER STADIUM
3095 YERBA BUENA ROAD
SAN JOSE, CA 95135



DATES TO REMEMBER

March 03, 2026

GRAD FAIR DAY

11:00am - 2:00 pm inside of Gullo II

Join us to learn more about the graduation process, schedule your graduation petition appointment, meet representatives from Herff Jones.

March 04, 2026

GRAD FAIR DAY

11:00am - 2:00 pm inside of Gullo II

Join us to learn more about the graduation process, schedule your graduation petition appointment, meet representatives from Herff Jones.

March 13, 2026

LAST DAY TO SUBMIT GRADUATION PETITIONS

There are three ways to schedule your Grad Petition Appointment:

1) Visit Grad Fair – March 3rd and 4th inside Gullo II from 11am – 2:00pm.

2) Stop by the Counseling Office located in the new Student Services Complex S-2027 to schedule your Grad Petition appointments or to ask any questions you may have related to the Grad Petition process.

3) Call the Counseling Office at (408) 270-6475 to schedule your Grad Petition appointments or to ask any questions you may have related to the Grad Petition process.

Do not wait until this day to schedule your Grad Petition appointment.



DATES TO REMEMBER

April 03, 2026

LAST DAY TO PRE-ORDER CAP AND GOWNS FOR ON CAMPUS PICKUP

Pre-Order ends at 8:59 pm. PST. Pickup for Cap and Gowns begins first week of May. Office of Student Life will create pickup schedule. Visit the Herff Jones website to order:

http://colleges.herffjones.com/college/_evc/

April 27, 2026

DEADLINE TO ORDER CAP AND GOWNS FOR EXPRESS SHIPMENT TO YOUR HOME

Pre-Order ends at 8:59pm. This is the last date to place an express order to have your cap and gown shipped to your home in time for the commencement ceremony. The Home Ship option shipping cost is \$14.90.

May 08, 2026

LAST DAY TO RSVP FOR COMMENCEMENT

Students must RSVP by this date to participate in the Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 22, 2026. Check your email for your personalized invitation to RSVP at: **Tassel** (Starting on April 13th | Ends May 8th to Register)

May 21, 2026

GRADUATION PRACTICE

EVC Soccer Stadium @
4:00pm

May 22, 2026

COMMENCEMENT DAY

EVC Soccer Stadium
4:00 p.m.- Graduate Check-In Opens
5:45 p.m.- Graduate Line Up Begins
6:00 p.m- Graduation Starts

Key Information

GRAD FAIR DAY

Students are encouraged to attend the Grad Fair Day on March 3 and March 4, 2025. This will be an opportunity to learn about the graduation process, schedule your graduation petition appointment, pick up your grad gift, and save money on graduation items! Students who order during Grad Fair, will save on shipping costs and can order discounted Grad Packs with the Herff Jones representative. Students who pre-order their items by April 03, 2026, will receive their items in April.

HONOR CORDS AND TASSELS

Every year the Associated Student Government purchases gold chords and tassels for students graduating with honors. This list of students is verified and provided by Admissions and Records. Students graduating within the following three Honors Distinctions will receive a FREE cord and tassel to wear during the graduation ceremony, courtesy of the Associated Student Government:

1. CUM LAUDE (3.50-3.74)
2. MAGNA CUM LAUDE (3.75-3.99)
3. SUMMA CUM LAUDE (4.00)

Students with a cumulative GPA that falls in one of the three above categories will receive an email notification. You will be able to pick up your cords and tassel during grad practice or during check-in on the day of graduation.

CAP & GOWN PICK UP

Students who pre-order their Cap and Gowns before the April 3rd deadline will receive an email notification from EVC when their package has arrived. If you do not pre-order your Cap and Gown you will be able to purchase these items to be shipped to your home via the Herff Jones website until Monday, April 27, 2026. Please be sure to check your email for updates related to Cap and Gown availability. If you are in a Special Academic Program (i.e. ENLACE, EOPS, Umoja-AFFIRM, etc.), please check with your program to see if a Cap & Gown will be provided to you **BEFORE** purchasing your Cap & Gown.



COMMUNICATION & GRAD UPDATES All information and updates related to graduation will be available online through the Graduation 2026 tab on the EVC Homepage, on EVC Student Life Social Media Pages, and via email. Please be sure to follow us on Instagram and check your email regularly to ensure you do not miss important reminders and updates. If you are not receiving email notifications please contact the Office of Student Life by email at studentlife@evc.edu.

STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER & NATIONAL ANTHEM SINGER

An invitation will be sent to students graduating with a 4.0 to audition to be the student commencement speaker. Auditions for the National Anthem singer are open to all graduating students and will be hosted in April. Both the Student Commencement Speaker and National Anthem singer will be seated on the stage during the ceremony and must participate in the graduation walk-through ahead of time.

RSVP AND GRADUATION TICKETS

Students must RSVP before the May 08, 2026 deadline in order to be able to participate in the commencement ceremony. No exceptions. Students must RSVP through Tassel. You can access the EVC Tassel by accessing the email sent to your email address on file.

Tickets and Wristbands are required to attend the graduation ceremony. Each graduate will receive 6 tickets. Should more tickets become available, an allotment window will open up through Tassel on Friday, May 15. Each eligible graduate will be able to request up to an additional tickets, first come- first served, should they be available.



Cap & Gown Information

CAP & GOWN ATTIRE Your cap and gown is black with green lining. Make sure you wear complementary colors under your gown as there is a slight “V” neckline in the gowns and a portion of your shirt will show. Also, the bottom of your legs and feet are visible, so wear appropriate shoes.

Caps are worn on the top of the head, not tilted off the back or side. Hairpins will help secure your cap in place and will be provided during check-in, if needed. Students are allowed to decorate caps, so long as the decorations are appropriate.

Your tassels should be worn on the right front-side of the cap until you are told to move them to the other side during the commencement ceremony.

The only accessories allowed over your gown are Phi Theta Kappa stoles/cords, honors cords, student leadership stoles/cords, purchased EVC stoles and/or personalized heritage stoles. See the Office of Student Life for more details.

ORDERING YOUR CAP & GOWN

Students can pre-order with shipment to the EVC before 8:59 pm PST on April 03, 2026. Pick-up of pre-ordered Cap and Gown orders will occur beginning the first week of May. Graduates also have the option to order their cap and gown for direct delivery to their homes. The deadline to order your cap and gown with shipping to your home is Friday, April 27, 2025, at 8:59 pm. The shipping cost is \$14.90. To pre-order your cap and gown and other graduation items, such as announcements and class rings. Please visit the Herff Jones Website at: http://colleges.herffjones.com/college/_evc

If you are in a Special Academic Program (i.e. ASPIRE, ENLACE), please check with your program to see if a Cap & Gown will be provided to you **BEFORE** purchasing your Cap & Gown. If you are a student facing financial hardship and need assistance purchasing your cap and gown, please email fresh@evc.edu.



Graduation Day Parking

Parking Lot 6 will be reserved and available ONLY for graduates and for graduate drop-off between 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. All other parking lots will be open and free of charge for the graduation commencement ceremony.

Friends and family of graduates may enter at either the San Felipe Rd campus entrance or the Yerba Road campus entrance to access available parking lots. The closest parking lots to the event are Student Parking Lots 4, 5, & and 2. ADA-accessible parking is available in Lot 4 and Lots 5 and 6. The closest ADA parking lot to the event location will be Lot 6.

The gate to the stadium will open at 4:00 pm. The Graduate lineup begins at 5:45 pm at which time we will close the entrance of the stadium for all guests. Guests will not be permitted into the stadium until after the procession into the stadium has ended. As such, we encourage guests to arrive early to find parking and seating.



Graduation Seating

The EVC Soccer Stadium will have two areas available for seating; field seating and seating in the bleachers. There will be a limited number of seats available on the field, as field seats will be reserved for graduates and faculty ONLY. The remaining seats will be available to all ticketed guests.

Please note: A barrier will be used to separate graduates from guests to ensure the safety and flow of the event. Guests will not be able to come close to the stage to take pictures during the ceremony. Nor will guests be permitted to come up to the barriers in place.

After the field seats have been filled, guests of graduates will be able to sit in the remaining bleacher sections. **For the safety and flow of the event, all graduates and guests must remain seated until the completion of the ceremony.**

Gates will open at 4:00 pm. We encourage guests to arrive early for optimal seating. The commencement will begin promptly at 6:00 pm. No guests will be let into the stadium until the commencement party has fully entered the stadium. Should your guests arrive late, there will be volunteers and ushers available to assist guests in finding seating after all graduates have entered the stadium.

If you require ADA seating, please contact the Director of Student Development & Activities, studentlife@evc.edu no later than **Friday, May 8th** to reserve these seats.



Before the Ceremony

There will be an opportunity for graduates to participate in a practice ceremony. Graduates have the option to attend the practice ceremony the day before graduation on Thursday, **May 21st at 4:00 pm.**

You may register for grad practice on the [Tassel Website](#) or by emailing studentlife@evc.edu.

Professional photographers from GradImages will be present during the entire commencement.

Check-in begins at 4:00 pm and Commencement line-up begins promptly at 5:45 p.m. Graduates who are late may not be able to participate in the ceremony. Please arrive no later than 5:30 p.m. to ensure you have plenty of time for photos with friends and the check-in process before line-up begins. Students arriving after 5:45 pm may not be able to join in the ceremony.

A ceremony program will be provided to you at your seat in the stadium. Programs will be available to all guests as they enter the stadium, limited to one per family.

You will not be allowed to carry anything with you during the processional except a small clutch and the name card you receive when you arrive. The name card will be used to announce your name as you walk across the stage. Please fill it out during check-in. If you have a concern about the correct pronunciation of your name, speak with the Director of Student Development before the ceremony.

For your safety, please ensure that you wear comfortable shoes as you will be standing for a total of one to two hours before and during the actual ceremony. Stiletto heels are prohibited.



During the Ceremony

We will begin the ceremony with a processional promptly at 6 p.m. Students will lead the processional, followed by faculty. Staff will provide direction to you throughout the evening. Please make sure you silence your cell phone before the procession begins.

Walk slowly down the aisle, one arm's length behind the person in front of you. When you reach your seat, face the podium and remain standing until you are told to be seated.

Please note: *If ADA Accommodations are needed, please contact the Office of Student Life by Friday, May 8th.*

Your picture will be taken twice: once when you are shaking hands with the president or chancellor and again as you exit the stage.

After the conferring of degrees, you will be told when to stand for the recessional. The platform party will guide you out of the stadium to where a post-graduation reception will be held in the grass area. Here you will be able to reconnect with your guests.

Please note: *Your actual degree/certificate is not processed until all grades have been posted. Admissions & Records will e-mail you when your diploma or certificate is available to be picked up. This usually occurs in late summer/early fall.*

The ceremony lasts approximately 1.5 hrs.

Please have all needs taken care of before the ceremony and plan to attend the entire time. Diploma covers will not be conferred until the end. Graduates must remain until the completion of the ceremony.



JOIN SJECCD'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

You're joining the ranks of thousands of others who have completed degree and certificate programs at EVC. Since 1975, we've been educating and training San Jose's workforce. Now, you join them as another elite alum of San Jose's premier educational institution. We're excited to see where your degree or certificate from EVC takes you from here. We hope that you'll keep in touch with us. To become an official member of our Alumni Association, email: EVCAumni@evc.edu.

Stay Connected with EVC:



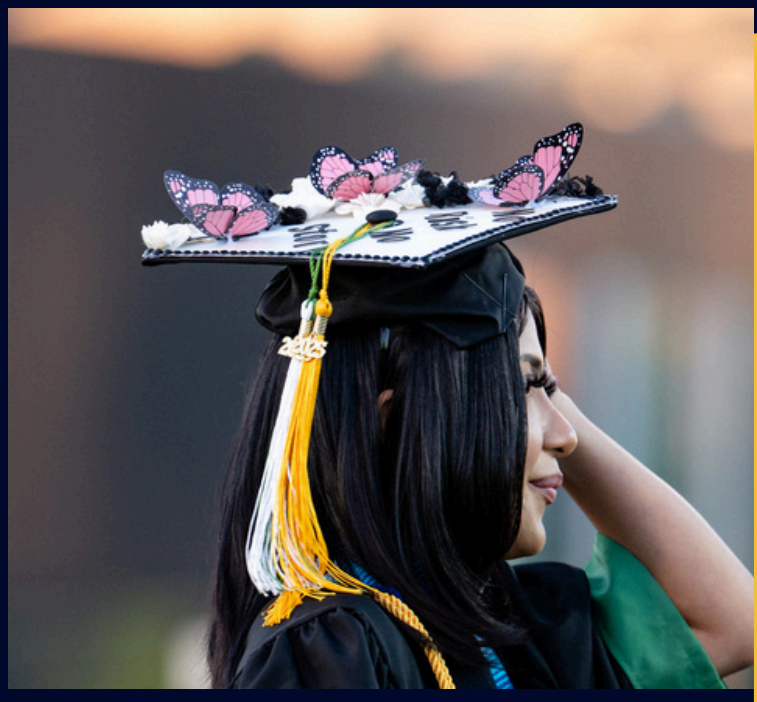
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@EvergreenValleyCollege



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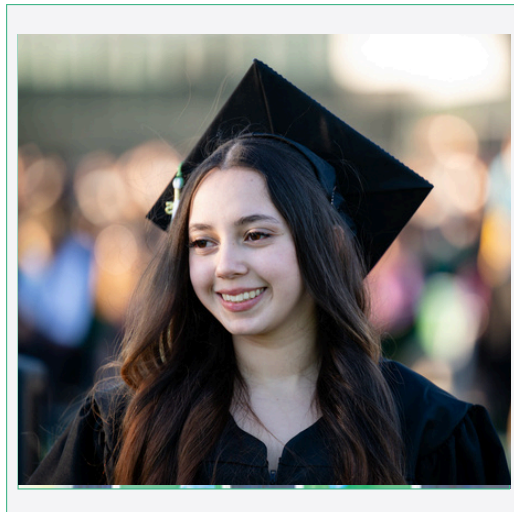




EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE

2026 EVC GRADUATION CHECKLIST

- Attend Grad Fair Day
- Schedule Graduation Petition Appointment
- Order Cap and Gown (check this guide book for key dates)
- RSVP for Graduation
- Submit Information for Graduation Slide Show on Marching Order
- Request Graduation Tickets
- Attend Practice Graduation on Thursday, May 21st
- Arrive for your Big Day on Friday, May 22nd



NOTES:



For questions please email the Office of Student Life:
studentlife@evc.edu