



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL  
STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Fall 2009 Graduating Students

**FROM:** Chancellor Harold L. Martin, Sr. *HLM*

**DATE:** October 23, 2009

**RE:** Fall Commencement – Decorum

I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with many of our student leaders over the past two weeks to engage in timely and important discussions about proposed changes to our commencement program. The University is looking forward to the opportunity to honor you and celebrate this academic milestone in your lives along with you and your family and friends during this historical occasion.

The A&T Commencement ceremony is a formal, dignified academic observance. We believe that within this framework, you should be able to express your excitement in ways that will not prevent others from hearing the speakers and enjoying the ceremony as well. It is important that each graduate is recognized appropriately and that the ceremony is not disrupted. Any distractions, such as beach balls, air horns and any other inappropriate items are prohibited and will be confiscated by the ushers. We appeal to your good judgment and true sense of “Aggie Pride” in helping to ensure that commencement is enjoyed by all.

As a result of our recent collaborative efforts, you are asked to adhere to the following:

- To ensure that the ceremony is enjoyable and memorable for all, we ask cooperation in observing rules of decorum. All degree candidates must wear academic apparel to participate in the ceremony. Any visible apparel worn with academic gowns should not detract from the recognition of your fellow graduate and must be appropriate for the occasion. No embellishments, including flowers and decorative jewelry, are to be worn on your academic gown.
- Female degree candidates should wear dark clothing and dark shoes, and no high collars or bows at the neck.

- Male degree candidates should wear white shirts, dark ties, dark pants; dark shoes and socks.
- All degree candidates must arrive at the Greensboro Coliseum and be fully gowned by 7:30 a.m. The ceremony will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and will last approximately 2.5 hours.
- All degree candidates' names will be called, and each candidate is expected to walk across the stage.
- **All degree candidates should remain for the entire ceremony, including the recessional.**
- Please refrain from cell phone use during the ceremony.
- Degree covers will only be given out at the end of the ceremony rather than as you walk across the stage.
- Degrees will be mailed in early February 2010 to the address that you provided on the graduation application. If you are unsure of the mailing address that you provided, please contact the Office of the Registrar at (336) 334-7595 or at [graduate@ncat.edu](mailto:graduate@ncat.edu).

For complete information on commencement, please visit the Office of the Registrar's website.

On behalf of the Aggie family and the Commencement Committee, we congratulate each of you on your academic achievement and wish you much success. It is truly our pleasure to witness our graduates making a difference in the world!