ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY
Graduation/Commencement Policy

Preamble

Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) confers degrees twice during the academic year, with formal commencement ceremonies at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Students completing requirements at the end of summer sessions will belong to the class of the following fall commencement. All undergraduate degree programs require a minimum and maximum of 120 credit hours.

A. Graduation Requirements

Degrees are awarded to students who have satisfactorily fulfilled the following graduation requirements:

i. Completion of all General Education courses as prescribed by the University (in the case of undergraduate students).

ii. Have an overall and major grade point average of 2.0 respectively.

iii. Completion of all courses and other requirements prescribed by the major Department as specified in the appropriate university catalog.

iv. A record of having taken and completed the required examinations or approved equivalents for exiting the program of study.

v. Filed of an Application for Graduation by the published deadline in the University’s academic calendar.

vi. Met all financial obligations to the University through the Division of Business and Finance. All tuition and fees must be paid prior to graduation. Candidates whose accounts have not been paid in full, or otherwise cleared by Business and Finance, will not qualify for graduation. ECSU reserves the right to withhold all degrees, official transcripts, and any other documentation from any student with outstanding financial obligations.
vii. Met ECSU’s residence requirements. Under this policy, the residence requirement refers to course credits earned at ECSU. A minimum of 30 semester hours of credit at the upper level applied toward a bachelor’s degree must be earned through regular enrollment in ECSU courses, including a minimum of 15 semester hours of credit in junior/senior level courses in a student's major field.

B. Commencement Ceremony Participation

A student may participate in commencement exercises if:

i. The graduation application was submitted by the published deadline for the respective commencement exercise.

ii. At the time of graduation application submission, the student met all of the requirements for graduation OR the student was enrolled in all courses remaining for degree completion during the semester.

iii. Student has obtained a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

iv. Student has met all financial obligations to the University through the Division of Business and Finance.

All students participating in the commencement ceremony must be certified by the Office of the Registrar before the degree is conferred.

Students who have withdrawn from the university are not eligible to participate in commencement.

C. Commencement Honor Marshals

i. For each commencement ceremony, ten (10) students from each class, exclusive of seniors, are selected to serve as honor marshals.

ii. Appointed by ECSU in recognition of their academic achievement and distinction, student honor marshals attend Commencement in a service capacity and assist with various tasks on the day of Commencement.
iii. Honor Marshals must be undergraduate students enrolled full-time (minimum of 12 credit hours) in the semester commencement occurs and matriculating for a degree at ECSU.

iv. Selected students must have the highest-grade point averages in their respective classes.

v. Transfer students must have the highest-grade point average in their respective classification; the total number of credit hours earned at ECSU is added to the total number of credit hours earned at other institutions.

D. Honor’s Designation for Graduates for Commencement

For the purposes of the commencement ceremony, including the distribution of honor cords and the printing of the commencement program, distinctions are calculated based on the grades up to, but not including the student’s final term. The final assessment is completed after senior final semester grades are calculated and honors designation will appear on the student's transcript once degrees are conferred. Policy 300.1.9 (Graduation and Commencement Honors Policy) details how degrees with distinction are awarded.