

# Montgomery College Commencement Guide

Class of 2020



# Montgomery College and Jostens Host Grad Finale at Montgomery College

Grad Finale is an event held on each campus that marks the beginning of commencement season. It is a celebration of your efforts—and has information you will need to graduate.

Germantown Campus-Tuesday, April 14

11 a.m.-2 p.m., Humanities and Social Sciences Building Lower Level (bookstore lobby, cafeteria)

**Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus–Wednesday, April 15** 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Charlene R. Nunley Student Services Building 2nd Floor Atrium

Rockville Campus-Thursday, April 16

11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Bookstore and Student Lounge/Activity Center

Formal Portraits in Regalia to Be Taken at Grad Finale Classic Photography will be available to take formal portraits of commencement candidates in commencement regalia at all Grad Finales. When you attend Grad Finale, you can:

- · purchase a college ring
- order personalized commencement announcements
- purchase your commencement regalia
- pre-order a frame for your diploma
- activate your Alumni Association membership by submitting an information form (pages 15–16 of this guide)

Join the conversation







#MCGrad2020

Grad Finale is your day. Enjoy it!





# Congratulations, Class of 2020!

This Commencement Guide contains information about Montgomery College's collegewide commencement ceremony on May 22, 2020, including details about robing, attire, ceremony protocol, and parking, as well as helpful tips and hints for making the most of your special day.

Please be sure to check the Montgomery College website frequently at montgomerycollege.edu/commencement or MyMC for additional details and updated information. This guide will also be available in PDF format at montgomerycollege.edu/commencement.

For questions or additional copies of this guide, contact the Office of Special Events at events@montgomerycollege.edu.

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While we have made every effort to provide the most current and accurate details regarding the commencement ceremony, the **information** in this document is **subject to change** without notice. Please visit **montgomerycollege.edu/commencement** for the most up-to-date information.

# Preparing for Commencement

### Academic and Financial Requirements

- 1. To qualify as a candidate for a degree of associate of arts, fine arts, science, applied science, associate of arts in teaching, a certificate, or a letter of recognition as appropriate, you must complete all courses required in the curriculum. Alternative courses, other than those specifically required, must be approved by your academic advisor, the registrar, and in some cases, the Academic Appeals Committee.
- 2. To graduate, you must have a minimum curriculum and cumulative grade point average of 2.0. If your overall grade point average equals or exceeds 3.4, you will graduate "with honors." Potential spring 2020 graduates must have a 3.4 or higher grade point average by the end of the fall 2019 semester to be recognized with honors at the commencement ceremony.
- 3. If you transfer credits from another college to fulfill requirements for commencement at Montgomery College, you must have your transcript(s) on file in the Office of Records and Registration on or before May 8, 2020.
- 4. If you are a spring 2020 commencement candidate and you have a grade of "I," it must be resolved on or before May 8, 2020, or you will not be eligible for spring 2020 commencement.
- 5. To participate in the ceremony, you should be a summer or fall graduate or have submitted a graduation application for spring.

Open periods for online graduation application:

FallSpringSummerJune 2-October 1October 2-February 15February 16-June 1

Summer and fall 2019 graduates, as well as potential graduates for spring 2020, will receive a graduation packet. The packets will be sent to the College email on file and will be sent via U.S. mail to the address on file (please be sure to check on MyMC that the email and address provided are up to date). The packet will contain important information including deadlines, a link to the participation form, and ticket information. Potential graduates must follow the link provided in the packet they receive to indicate that they want to participate in the ceremony.

The graduate participation website will be open from March 9 through April 10, 2020. Students who miss this deadline and indicate after April 16 that they want to participate in the ceremony, will have the opportunity; however, the following will apply:

- They will not receive guest tickets; their guests can view the ceremony in the alternate viewing locations.
- They will be placed at the end of the procession line.
- They will not have their name shown on the screen in the tent.

- 6. You should satisfy all financial obligations (tuition balances, parking tickets, etc.) on or before May 8, 2020.
- 7. If you are a Federal Stafford Loan and/or a Federal Direct Loan borrower who is graduating, transferring, or both, you must complete the required Loan Exit Counseling by April 30, 2020, at studentloans.gov and select Complete Exit Counseling. Review your loan history and complete exit counseling. Print the Confirmation of Completion. Then fill out the Loan Exit Reference form located on MyMC under the Financial Aid tab. Print the Loan Exit Form. Submit both documents (Confirmation of Completion and Loan Exit Form) to the Office of Student Financial Aid on your campus. Loan exit counseling instructions are available at the Financial Aid Office. For answers to questions regarding the repayment terms for your particular loan, contact your assigned loan servicer.

### **Ceremony Information**

- 1. You must have a cap and gown to participate in the ceremony. Academic regalia is available at the campus bookstores and at grad finales. It includes cap, gown, and tassel for a cost of \$30. You may also purchase honor cords at the bookstores. Advisors will distribute Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) stoles at the grad finale, commencement rehearsal, and on the morning of commencement. You should purchase your academic regalia early to allow time for pressing or steaming to remove wrinkles. For information, call the campus bookstores at 240-567-5302.
- 2. If your guests require disability-related accommodations, contact the Office of Special Events at events@montgomerycollege.edu.
- 3. If you require disability-related accommodations, contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office on your campus: Germantown, 240-567-7770; Rockville, 240-567-5058; and Takoma Park/Silver Spring, 240-567-1480 or email dss@montgomerycollege.edu.
- 4. Visit the Alumni Association tent following the ceremony to purchase a diploma frame or to pick up your pre-ordered diploma frame. Proceeds benefit scholarships and programs for students and alumni. A diploma frame order form is provided at the back of this guide. You may order before April 17 at montgomerycollege.edu/diploma-frames.
- 5. Only students who have applied for graduation and have met the specific requirements for their declared major in the summer or fall of 2019 or the spring of 2020 are eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.

# Commencement Rehearsal-May 19

Attend commencement rehearsal Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Rehearsal begins at 10 a.m. in the large tent on the Rockville Campus Athletic Field (the rehearsal will take approximately an hour).

# Highlights and Deadlines

#### Commencement 2020

Montgomery College's collegewide commencement ceremony takes place at 10 a.m., Friday, May 22, 2020, in the large white tent on the athletic field of the Rockville Campus. Indoor viewing areas are set up in the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center and Theatre Arts Building. The procession of graduates begins at 10 a.m. The ceremony lasts about two and a half hours.

All guests, including children (excluding lap infants up to two years old) must have a ticket to attend the commencement ceremony. Please see page 6 for information on getting tickets for commencement. Guest seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. We respectfully request that families and guests be seated by 9:50 a.m. Entering and seating will be restricted during the processional. During the procession, ceremony, and recessional, we ask guests to please keep all aisles clear and to turn off all cell phones and pagers.

Strollers and large bags are not permitted in the tent. Please leave strollers at the secured area located outside the tent.

Degrees are conferred at the ceremony. However, the Office of Records and Registration will notify you after the ceremony with the date for picking up your official diploma.

#### Commencement Speakers

Montgomery College's commencement speakers are leaders from both the public and private sector, from education to business to the federal government.

In the past, speakers such as Kojo Nnamdi, radio personality, WAMU; Norm Augustine, retired chairman of the board and CEO of the Lockheed Martin Corporation; Freeman Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland Baltimore County; Bob Levey, former *Washington Post* columnist; and Al Hunt, columnist for *Bloomberg View*, the editorial arm of Bloomberg News, and his wife, Judy Woodruff, co-anchor of PBS's "NewsHour," have addressed Montgomery College graduates and their families.

# **Alcohol Policy**

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at the commencement ceremony, according to the Montgomery College Drug and Alcohol Prevention Policy. Please do not bring alcoholic beverages.

### Cap and Gown Information

Attend a Grad Finale to purchase your regalia. Or you can purchase your regalia at the bookstore on any campus. Members of Phi Theta Kappa should see their campus advisor to receive a stole for graduation.

#### Commencement Video

Commencement will air live on Xfinity, RCN, and Fios: Xfinity-MCTV (Channel 10) and in HD (Channel 998) RCN-MCTV (Channel 10) and in HD (Channel 1059) Fios-MCTV (Channel 10)

The ceremony will be rebroadcast; for dates and times, see mctv.info. Commencement will stream live at montgomerycollege.edu/commencement and on MC's Facebook page at facebook.com/montgomerycollege. MCTV's coverage of commencement will also be posted after the ceremony on the MC YouTube channel—youtube.com/montgomerycollege.

#### Concessions

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, bottled juice, frozen smoothies, pastries, donuts, and candy will be sold beginning at 8 a.m. near the commencement tent. Please see the commencement site map in the center of this guide on pages 8–9.

#### **Diplomas**

Degrees are conferred at the ceremony. If you pre-ordered a diploma frame online or at the Grad Finale, you should pick up your frame at the Alumni Association tent after the ceremony. All graduates will be notified when their diploma is ready for pickup from the Office of Records and Registration.

#### First Aid

A first aid station is located in the first aid tent near the commencement tent. See the commencement site map in the center of this guide on pages 8–9.

# Parking

Lot 1 is reserved for VIP and disabled parking. Lot 13 will be closed on the day of commencement. College security staff are available the day of commencement to direct parking. Golf carts will be available to transport guests who are in need of assistance from the parking lots to the commencement tent.

### **Photographs**

Classic Photography will take formal portraits of commencement candidates in commencement regalia at all Grad Finales and commencement rehearsal. Call 410-203-1003 or visit classic-photo.com for more information.

At the ceremony a professional photographer will photograph each of you as you receive your diploma on stage and will provide you with one complimentary  $5" \times 7"$  photo. Visit classic-photo.com after the ceremony to choose your free photo.

Individuals will not be permitted to photograph or stand in the aisle or side of the tent during the ceremony.

#### Restrooms

Portable restrooms are available adjacent to the commencement tent.

#### Reception

A reception immediately follows the ceremony in the white tented area next to the commencement tent.

### **Public Safety Office**

The Rockville Campus Public Safety Office is located in the Mannakee Building, Room 125; their number is 240-567-5333.

#### Social Media

The official commencement hashtag is #MCGrad2020. Social media posts using this hashtag will be featured on the video screens in the commencement tent prior to the start of the ceremony.

#### **Tickets**

All guests, including children (excluding lap infants up to two years old) must have a ticket to attend the commencement ceremony. When you log in to complete your participation form, you will see the section for your guest tickets. The quantity of tickets available will depend on the number of students participating in the ceremony. Tickets will be available beginning May 1, 2020.

The ticket entrance will close at 9:50 a.m. for the academic procession. At that time, guests will be directed to alternative viewing sites. The guest entrance will reopen again at 10:30 a.m. if there are available seats.

# Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Policy

The use of all tobacco and electronic cigarette products is prohibited on any Montgomery College property.

# Robing and Processional

For accommodations or assistance to fully participate in this event, please email the Disability Support Services Office at dss@montgomerycollege.edu.

#### Where to Assemble

Main Gym (PE 119), Physical Education Center, 8:30 a.m. Robing and lining up begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Friday morning. Snacks will be served. Please leave your valuables with your quest or lock them in your car.

#### What to Wear

Men and Women: Wear dark, comfortable shoes. Remove wrinkles from your gown (read care instructions in package). Men: Wear white collared dress shirt and tie.

#### What Not to Wear

High heels are not permitted on the track. Wear low-heeled shoes. Only honors cords and Phi Theta Kappa stoles are allowed to be worn outside of the black gown at Commencement.

#### Phi Theta Kappa Stoles

If you are eligible for a Phi Theta Kappa stole and you have not received one by the day of commencement, you should report to the Phi Theta Kappa table in the main gym for instructions.

#### Procession

Graduates will leave the main gym in pairs and will be escorted to the athletic field, in alphabetical order.

Graduates will walk in single file through the side entrances. At that point, graduates on the right will proceed to the right of the main aisle, then toward the front. Graduates on the left will proceed to the left of the main aisle, then toward the front. Following instructions from the ushers, students of each line will file into the rows, and go to the last empty seat in the row toward the main aisle of that section. Students should immediately sit down. Ushers will indicate when to fill the next row.

When filing in during the processional, graduates will take their seats, then they will rise for the faculty procession and remain standing through the conclusion of the National Anthem. Graduates will then be seated in unison. Follow instructions from the ushers during the ceremony.

# Montgomery College Commencement 2020

May 22, 10 a.m., Rockville Campus Athletic Field

### Commencement Site Legend

- Alumni Association Table (diploma frames, membership information, and flowers)
- **B** Concession Stand (snacks, beverages)
- Reception Tent (Parking Lot 3)
- First Aid Station
- Photography Area
- **†**★ Restrooms
- & Special Seating
- Water Station

#### Graduate Robing

PE Physical Education Center (Main Gym, Room 119)

#### Faculty and Staff Robing

GU Homer S. Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education (Auto Bays)

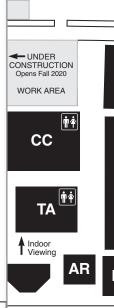
#### Indoor Viewing

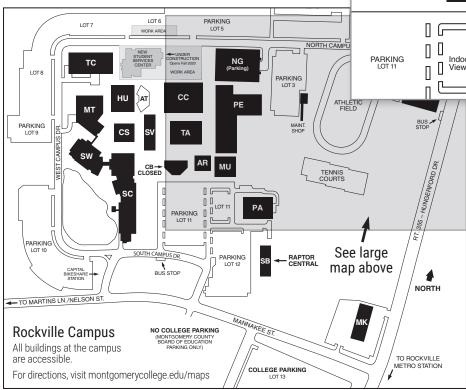
(air conditioned, no tickets required)

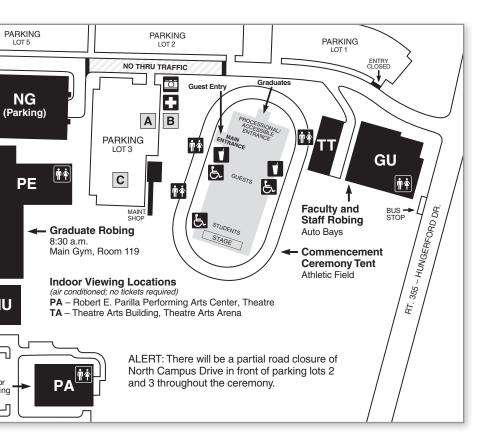
PA Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

TA Theatre Arts Building

For accommodations to fully participate in this event, email the Office of Disability Support Services at dss@montgomerycollege.edu.







# Rockville Campus Legend

- AR Paul Peck Art Building
- AT Amphitheatre
- CB Counseling and Advising Building (closed as of 12/17/18)
- CC Campus Center
- CH Child Care Center
- CS Computer Science Building
- HU Humanities Building
- MK Mannakee Building (Public Safety Office)
- MT Gordon and Marilyn Macklin Tower (*Library*)
- MU Music Building
- NG North Garage (parking)
- SB South Campus Instruction Building (Raptor Central)

- SC Science Center
- SV Student Services Building (Records and Registration Office)
- SW Science Center West
- TC Technical Center
- TT Interim Technical Training Center

# **Buildings Used for Commencement**

- GU Homer S. Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education (faculty and staff robing)
- PA Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center (indoor viewing)
- PE Physical Education Center (graduate robing)
- TA Theatre Arts Building (indoor viewing)

# Ceremony and Recessional

#### Presentation of Graduates and Awarding of Degrees

After the honorary degrees are awarded, Dr. Sanjay Rai, senior vice president for academic affairs, will present all of the graduates. All graduates will stand in unison and remain standing until Dr. DeRionne Pollard, president, confers the degrees and Ms. Gloria Aparicio Blackwell, chair, Board of Trustees, awards the diplomas. Then all graduates will be seated.

To ensure a timely flow of graduates, an usher will signal to the graduates when they should stand and file out to receive their diploma covers and assist them on their return to their seat.

#### Receiving Your Diploma Cover

Those graduates sitting at the outside ends of each aisle should remain especially alert and watch for the usher's signals.

When proceeding toward the stage to receive your diploma cover, give the card bearing your name to the reader at the stage. As you proceed across the stage, you will shake hands with President DeRionne Pollard and a trustee, who will hand you the diploma cover.

Look for the usher's direction to return to your seat and remain seated until ceremony end.

Be sure to attend the May 19 commencement rehearsal, where these procedures will be reviewed.

# **Indoor Viewing**

An indoor viewing area of the commencement ceremony is available in the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center and in the Theatre Arts Building for guests who wish to avoid the crowds, heat, sun, etc. These areas are air conditioned and are recommended for elderly guests and guests with small children. No tickets are required for admission to the indoor viewing areas.

#### Recessional

The recessional follows the induction of graduates into the Alumni Association. Graduates will exit in pairs down the center aisle (one from the left, one from the right—watch for the usher's signals) in the following order:

Platform guests (those seated on the stage) Administrators, faculty, and staff Deans of student affairs (in pairs) Graduates

You should plan to meet your guests outside the ceremony area after commencement at the reception in Parking Lot 3.

Following commencement, you will be notified when diplomas will be ready for pickup at the Office of Records and Registration—estimated the last week of July. If you pre-ordered a diploma frame online or at the Grad Finale, pick up your frame immediately following commencement at the Alumni Association tent. If you do not pick up your pre-ordered diploma frame on the day of the event by 1:30 p.m., please visit the Alumni Association office located at 9221 Corporate Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850 on Thursday, May 28, to pick up your frame.

# Tips for Commencement Day

- Students report for robing at 8:30 a.m. to the Physical Education Building.
- Guest seating in the commencement tent is first-come, first-served. Plan for your family and guests to arrive early. Each guest must have a ticket to enter the commencement tent, which opens at 8 a.m.
- The ceremony will take place in the large white tent on the athletic field of the Rockville Campus—rain or shine.
- The ceremony will air in satellite locations at the Robert E. Parilla
   Performing Arts Center and in the Theatre Arts Arena in the Theatre Arts
   Building. These areas are air conditioned and do not require commencement tickets for admission.
- Before the ceremony, establish a place such as the Alumni Association tent at the reception site, to reunite with your family and guests after the ceremony.
- Your family and guests must be seated in the tent by 9:50 a.m. Entrance to the tent during the processional is restricted.
- During the procession and ceremony, your guests must remain in their seats to keep the aisles clear.
- The procession of graduating students will begin promptly at 10 a.m.
- For the safety of all guests, bags larger than 5%" x 8%" x 2%" are prohibited in the tent. All bags and containers are subject to search by security personnel.
- If you or your guests have disabilities, seating is available in the commencement tent. Students with disabilities will have priority. Please consult the ushers for directions.
- Your family and guests will receive a commencement program as they enter the tent. Your program will be placed on your seat.
- A limited number of water bottles are provided during the ceremony. Other food and beverages are available for purchase. See the commencement site map on pages 8–9 for specific locations.
- At the conclusion of the ceremony, your family and guests should remain in their seats until the recession of ceremony participants is complete.
- Commencement will air live on Xfinity, RCN, and Fios: Xfinity-MCTV (Channel 10) and in HD (Channel 998) RCN-MCTV (Channel 10) and in HD (Channel 1059) Fios-MCTV (Channel 10)

The ceremony will be rebroadcast; for dates and times, see mctv.info. Commencement will stream live at montgomerycollege.edu/commencement and on MC's Facebook page at facebook.com/montgomerycollege. MCTV's coverage of commencement will also be posted after the ceremony on the MC YouTube channel—youtube.com/montgomerycollege.

The ceremony will be approximately two and a half hours in length.
 Graduates should remain in their seats and exit with their class.

# Alumni Association Commencement Services

The Alumni Association provides several services to you and your family and guests on the day of the ceremony, while supplies last. All proceeds from sales benefit the many scholarships and programs of the Alumni Association.

### **Commencement Flower Bouquets**

The Alumni Association will be selling double orchid leis and roses in halfand full-dozen bouquets. Look for representatives stationed in the parking lots and at the entrance to the commencement tent. Graduating students may not carry flowers in the tent during the ceremony.

#### **Commemorating Your Commencement**

Following the ceremony, visit the Alumni Association tent:

- Purchase the perfect display for your new diploma—an elegant silver-tone or black metal frame, a dark espresso wood frame, or a mahogany frame. (See the next page for description and inside back cover for order form.)
- Activate your membership in the Alumni Association, free of charge, and receive many member benefits. (See pages 15–16 for the Alumni Association Information Form.)
- Pick up a memento marking your new status as an MC graduate.

# Stay Connected to MC after Commencement

By joining the Alumni Association, you can take advantage of benefits, keep plugged into the College, and maintain your relationship with MC. Your provisional membership was reserved when you filed for commencement. As an active member, you'll receive these special benefits:

- 15 percent fee reduction on pool passes
- Reduced ticket rates at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center at the Rockville Campus and the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Cultural Arts Center student performances
- Exclusive access to free Alumni Association-sponsored continuing education seminars each year
- Eligibility to join the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union and Maryland State Employees Credit Union
- Discounts and additional benefits and services with seven different car rental companies (drivers must be 21 years of age) and with Choice Hotels

#### **Diploma Frames**

Diploma frames feature an outside color mat in a selection of College colors, embossed with the Montgomery College logo. Silver-tone metal frames are available for \$60, including tax; and black metal frames are \$70, including tax. Dark espresso wood and briarwood finish frames, featuring a double mat, are available for \$125, including tax. A limited supply of rich mahogany wood frames with triple mat is available for \$175, including tax. If you order a frame online at montgomerycollege.edu/diploma-frames before April 17, or at the Grad Finale, your frame will be ready for pick up at the MC Alumni Association tent following the ceremony. Sample frames are on display at each campus's Grad Finale

#### **Activate Your Membership**

Fill out the Alumni Association Information Form on the next page, detach the form from this booklet, and give your completed form to an Alumni Association representative at the alumni table at the Grad Finale. Or mail your completed form to:

Montgomery College Alumni Association 9221 Corporate Boulevard Rockville, MD 20850

You may also complete the form online at montgomerycollege.edu/alumnimembership.

#### More Information

Visit montgomerycollege.edu/alumni or call 240-567-5378 for more information about alumni activities and events. Follow the Alumni Association on social media at facebook.com/mcalumniassociation

# Alumni Association Information Form

To activate your Alumni Association membership, complete and deliver this form to the Alumni Association table at the Grad Finale or following commencement, or complete the form online at montgomerycollege.edu/alumnimembership.

Student ID No.: M		·
Method of Contact:  I wish to receive announcement the Alumni Association via emacheck preferred email address.  Personal email address:	il at the email add )	dress(es) below. (Please
☐ Business email address:		
☐ I prefer to be contacted by U.S.	Mail.	
Name		
Name used while attending MC Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Telephone home	work	fax
Year graduated or last attended MC	<u>'20</u> Campus	
After attending Montgomery Collection	,	
Major/Degree		
Enter the workforce  Profession		
Employer		
Business address		
Other		

Continues on next page

Do you have any relatives who gra	duated from or attended MC?		
No Yes, as listed below.	D.L.C.		
	Relationship		
	Relationship		
Name	·		
	relative to specific issues and other legislative initiatives		
Would you be interested in employ ☐ hiring an intern ☐ summer employment ☐ cooperative education	ring MC students by:		
What type(s) of alumni activities well music and theatre events  athletic events  art events  other (please specify)	☐ chapters related to my major ☐ group travel programs ☐ workshops or lectures		
Comments, suggestions, ideas:			
Signature			

This form may also be mailed to the Montgomery College Alumni Association 9221 Corporate Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850

# Diploma Frame Order Form

Samples of our custom-designed diploma frames will be on display at Grad Finales in April. Use this form to select your order and pre-pay at Grad Finale, or order in advance at montgomerycollege.edu/diploma-frames.

Name	Campus		
Student ID No.: M			
Address			
City	State	e Zip Code	
Telephone (day)	_ (evening).		
Email address (personal)			
Email address (business)			
Item	Qty.	Unit Cost	Total
Select a diploma frame style and outside	mat color a	s listed belo	W.
silver-tone metal (single purple mat)		\$60.00	\$
☐ black metal (single purple mat)		\$70.00	\$
☐ dark espresso wood (double mat) ☐ purple with silver trim ☐ silver with purple trim		\$125.00	\$
☐ briarwood finish (double mat) ☐ purple with silver trim ☐ silver with purple trim		\$125.00	\$
mahogany wood (triple mat)		\$175.00	\$
		TOTAL	\$
Check may be made payable to the Mc	ontgomery C	ollege Alumn	i Association
The Alumni Association will accept credit We do not recommend mailing card infor		ents at Grad	Finale.
Please plan to claim your order following We cannot ship frame orders to you.	the ceremo	ny at comm	encement.



Join the conversation







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The Pepsi Bottling Group is a proud sponsor of Montgomery College's 2020 Commencement