

POLICY**GRADUATION****Requirements**

To be considered eligible for graduation with an Associate Degree, Diploma or Certificate (9 credit minimum, as defined by MnSCU) each student must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete all courses and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or better on a 4.00 grading scale. In addition, diplomas and degrees may require minimum passing grades for specific courses.
2. Fulfill all financial obligations to the college.
3. A student seeking candidacy for an associate degree, diploma or certificate must submit an "Application for Graduation" form to the Registration Office when the student pre-registers for his/her last semester in residence. (A student must be within 10 credits or 12 credits internship of completing his/her degree or diploma to participate in graduation ceremony.)
4. Residence: To be eligible for graduation, a student must have earned at least 1/3 of the semester credits at Ridgewater College and must be enrolled at the college during the semester in which the degree requirements are completed. An exception may be made when a student who has completed at least 20 credits at Ridgewater College lacks 10 or fewer credits for graduation. Such students may petition the administration for permission to complete the degree requirements through transfer of acceptable non-resident credit. Petitions/transcripts will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for recency or to insure compliance with current graduation standards.

Except for extenuating circumstances – such as entry into the military service – this transfer of acceptable credits must occur within a reasonable amount of time after the student transferred from Ridgewater College. The petition form, which is available from the counselors, must be submitted in the year in which the degree is to be awarded.

5. Participation: All students seeking the Associate Degree or Diploma are expected to participate in the graduation ceremonies.
6. Time Limit: Students graduating in fewer than four years must meet the graduation and degree requirements in the current college catalog or those degree requirements in effect during their first term at Ridgewater College. Students graduating more than four years after the date of first enrollment must meet the requirements stated in the catalog in effect for the year in which graduation occurs.

History:

01.27.03 Adopted

05.12.06 Revised

PROCEDURES**GRADUATION****Graduation Honors**

For those who qualify, the graduation program will note with one star individuals who have achieved a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50, and their diploma will be embossed with the honor student seal. Two stars will indicate a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75. In addition to the honors seal, these students will receive gold braids to be worn at the ceremony. Three stars will indicate a perfect 4.00 GPA. In addition to the honors seal and gold braids, these students will also be given a medallion to be worn at the ceremony.

To be eligible for honors, at least two-thirds (2/3) of all credits earned at Ridgewater College must have a grade point value letter grade assigned (i.e., A – F).

Graduation Attire

All faculty, administration and students wearing caps and gowns will wear only official graduation attire. This would include official graduation caps, tassels and gowns, as well as honors braids and medallions. No other items are allowed on the gown or to be worn to the ceremony.

History:

05.12.06 Adopted

01.28.08 Revised – For Implementation 07.01.08