

Dear ATS Graduation Candidates,

Congratulations on your impending achievement! As the date for your graduation draws near, we would like to provide you with important information regarding commencement activities. Please read through this announcement carefully.

Information on the Website

Most of the information you need to know is available online at: www.nyack.edu/commencement. Please check back periodically for updates.

Caps & Gowns & Hoods*

Kindly order your own cap, gown and hood **directly** from Herff Jones. You may follow the link above and click on “caps and gowns” or go directly to their site: <https://collegegrad.herffjones.com/>. Type in “Nyack College” for the school.

Place your order by April 9th to avoid paying additional shipping costs. The last day you may order online is Friday, April 15th. *Full regalia (cap, gown & hood) are **required** for **both** the Hooding & Commencement ceremonies.

Hooding Ceremony

The ATS Hooding Ceremony is a separate event from the Commencement exercises. It is designed solely for the ATS community. Please plan to arrive at Bethel Gospel Assembly between 6:00-6:30 PM on Thursday, May 3rd with your cap, tassel, gown & hood. The event begins at 7:00 pm. Please go to this link to obtain directions:

<https://www.bethelga.org/contact> No tickets are required for this event, but we do ask each graduate to limit their invitations to 5 guests to allow room for everyone. A light reception will follow the ceremony.

Commencement

Graduation will be held **Saturday, May 5th at 2:00 pm** at the Westchester County Center. Graduates need to be at the center **at 12:00 PM**. Please anticipate significant traffic & parking delays in your travel plans. Over 4,000 people will be arriving within a short period of time. Tickets are required for guests age 2 and up. Five (5) tickets will be given to each graduate and may be picked up in the Registrar’s office beginning April 20th.

If you require more than 5 tickets, you may request more by sending an email to the Registrar’s office. Please be mindful of your fellow graduate’s needs as you make your request. Any additional tickets will be distributed as they are available. *(Please note that tickets are intended for family and friends, no personal professional photographers are permitted.)*

During the Commencement ceremony, graduates will ascend and descend stairs and move across the stage. Kindly inform the Registrar’s office if you will require assistance for any physical challenge so that we may prepare for the use of an elevator/lift and appropriate seating.

Graduation Preparation & Exit Interviews

- **Your account must be paid in full** prior to graduation in order to participate in ceremonies and receive your diploma.
- Any **library obligations** must be met.
- If you have taken out any Federal Direct Stafford Student Loans while enrolled, you will receive a loan exit counseling packet by mail from the office of Student Financial Services in April. The exit packet will direct you on how to complete the **Exit Counseling** process at that time. Please DO NOT attempt to complete the process before receiving the exit packet. This requirement must be fulfilled or we will need to withhold your diploma.
- You must also complete a **Graduating Student Questionnaire (GSQ)** online - watch your email for further details.

If you have fulfilled all of these requirements and your diploma is available, you may pick up your diploma at check-in on Graduation day. Please have a trusted friend or family member available to hold your diploma and personal belongings during the ceremony as you will not be permitted to return to the check in area after the ceremony. **Diplomas will not be available after 1:20pm the day of graduation. Any student not checked in by 1:20 will need to contact their respective Registrar’s office on or after Tuesday, May 8th about getting their diploma.**

Thank you for your attention to these matters. May you experience God’s grace as you finish out your time here at Alliance Theological Seminary!

Cordially, The Registrar Team