



READING AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT SPEAKER



Reading Area Community College annually selects a graduating student to speak at commencement. The chosen student speaker will have the opportunity to represent the graduating class at Commencement on **Friday, May 8, 2026 at 2pm** at the Santander Arena.

PRESENTATION CRITERIA

Your graduation speech should be a ceremonial speech appropriate for the audience and the occasion. You will be speaking primarily for the class and to the class, but also to friends, family and the entire RACC community. Your speech could draw upon your experiences at RACC and the value of a community college education, but it should avoid focusing only on your own accomplishments and instead have a meaningful message for others. The speech should be three to five minutes in length.

All students eligible for May graduation who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher may apply for this honor to be commencement speaker.

If you are interested in speaking at May graduation:

- All speeches must be submitted via email.
- Submit a **typed copy** of your speech. Your speech should be no more than 3-5 minutes in length.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

- Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and email address.
- Submit your contact information and speech by scanning the QR code by **Friday, March 6, 2026**.



Students whose speeches are selected as finalists will be asked to deliver the completed presentation before the Campus Life Committee on the afternoon of **Monday, March 23 at 3pm**.

The panel will select a presentation based on the following:

- appropriateness of the message
- appeal to a broad audience
- delivery
- mechanics

TOP 10 REASONS TO SPEAK AT GRADUATION

10. Inspire your fellow graduates.
9. Make your family cry.
8. Make everyone else laugh.
7. Get a great seat at graduation.
6. Tell everyone how you really feel.
5. Be the center of attention.
4. Shake hands with the President before the rest of your class.
3. Talk without being interrupted.
2. Practice what you learned in Speech class.
1. Get the last word. Finally. We mean it. Really.