

Frequently Ask Questions

1. When will I find out what ceremony I have been assigned to attend?

Graduates should check their email approximately one week prior to the event to find out which ceremony they've been assigned to, along with more details on timing, expectations, logistics, etc. Graduates should share this information with their Graduate Sponsor.

2. What is the program? What will happen at the CPA Alberta Convocation Ceremony?

The program for the event is outlined below:

- Graduates and Sponsor Check-in
- General guest arrival
- Doors open for general seating
- Ceremony commences
- Formal program with introductions of the graduates
- Ceremony ends

Note that the formal ceremony will last approximately two hours, with no formal intermissions

3. Where can attendees park?

- In Calgary, parking is available at TELUS Convention Centre Parkade. For more details, please visit this [page](#).
- In Edmonton, parking is available at Canada Place Underground Parkade. For more details, please visit this [page](#).

4. What should graduates, sponsors, and other attendees wear?

The dress code for the ceremonies is business formal. A cap and gown is not provided nor required for the ceremony.

Graduates will be in the spotlight and on their feet. We recommend graduates wear **professional yet comfortable shoes**, as there will be some standing to wait for service and ascending and descending stage stairs

5. What are the seating arrangements for graduates, sponsors, and other guests?

Graduates and their sponsors have designated seating in the front of the room. Other guests will sit in the designated open seating areas. If a group of guests wishes to sit together, they should arrive together to secure their own seats. Note that seating will adhere to any health guidelines or restrictions in place at the time.

6. Can a graduate sit with family or friends?

No. Graduates will be sitting in a designated seating area away from their guests. The formal program requires graduates and their sponsors to move to and from the stage, and all graduates need to be seated where they can be prompted by CPA Alberta staff when the time comes to cross the stage.

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7. How long is the ceremony?

The ceremony itself will take approximately two hours. We ask that guests of graduates come on time and stay for the whole ceremony in order to be respectful of all graduates and their guests. Guests coming in and out of the ceremony can be disruptive and distracting for the people on stage and other guests in attendance.

Depending upon the time of the graduate's assigned ceremony, they will be expected to arrive one hour prior to the scheduled start time, to allow for registration, ceremony instructions, and assembly for stage presentation.

Graduating classes can be very large, so CPA Alberta greatly appreciates your patience and understanding throughout the ceremony.

8. What is expected of the graduates and sponsors at the ceremony?

- We recommend graduates and sponsors arrive one hour prior to the start of the ceremony. Bring minimal personal items (everything should be able to fit into a pocket)
- Wear professional yet comfortable shoes
- Bring money for parking and/or coat check (coat check is cash only)
- Once inside the venue:
- Go to the bathroom, check coats, and leave any personal items with family prior to registering (please note: coat check at the TELUS Convention Centre and Edmonton Convention Centre will only take your coats—NO purses)
- Go through the registration process
- Graduate and sponsor will be directed to the designated seating area where they will remain until further instruction

More details concerning the ceremony will be included in the email with assigned seating, which will be sent one week prior to the ceremony.