

Why we do what we do at graduation

• Tossing of the graduation hat is a tradition signaling the end of the ceremonies. The flight of the hat symbolizes the flight of the graduates to whatever awaits them.

• Diplomas were originally made of sheepskin. The words were written in ink on paper-thin sheepskin, allowed to dry, then rolled up and tied with a ribbon. Later, they were

printed on parchment when paper-making techniques improved. They ditched the ribbons when graduates complained that the rolled and curled up diplomas were difficult to frame.

• "Pomp and Circumstance" was originally composed in 1901 by Sir Edward Elgar. The tune was eventually adopted by Princeton in

1907, Chicago in 1908, Columbia in 1913, Vassar in 1916, and Rutgers in 1918 as their official graduation ceremony accompaniment.

• The commencement cap, or "mortarboard," originated with headgear worn by church dignitaries in the 16th Century. Though

the style has been greatly modified over the years, the caps are called mortarboards because of their resemblance to a masonry tool of the same name. (Who knew?) The tassel was added in the 19th century. Protocol requires the tassel to be worn on the right side of the mortarboard until the candidate receives his/her degree. Then it's

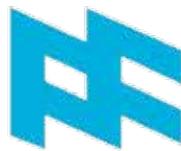
moved to the left.

• In the 1300s, scholars and clerics at European universities would wear long robes to stay warm and comfortable in the largely unheated buildings. The practice became so common that, eventually, the robes and gowns were recognized as "official" attire, with little to no room allowed for leeway.

Congratulations Graduates of Class 2021



Congratulations Class of 2021!



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Selfies have become part of the ceremony

Everybody wants to take a quick self portrait or "selfie" these days. Some schools have openly embraced the "selfie" and do not limit when, where or how students choose to authenticate the experience.

Many institutions however, have frowned upon the on stage "selfie." The University of South Florida and Bryant University advised that graduates refrain from taking "selfies" while on stage, deeming it improper. Students at these schools can still take them during the rest of the ceremony, though.



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Some practical advice after graduating from high school

While most graduation commencements feature speakers that deliver some great advice to high school graduates, most of it is general and doesn't translate to practical daily use.

They are supposed to boost graduates' spirits and push them into college, where everything they have known so far, changes.

To supplement these traditional recommendations, we have compiled a list of practical and real suggestions designed to help with the daily tasks of post-high school.

- Success in high school doesn't always translate to success later in life. In several years, what team you played on or what your GPA was

will not be such a big factor in the employment process. You'll most likely find you have to prove yourself all over again, but your class has gone through a pandemic, and still succeeded, so you've got this.

- Don't confuse your studies with an education. Time spent getting an A-plus in college, as opposed to an A-minus, probably won't make a big difference. But keep learning all your life. Ask questions. Listen to people. Take classes. Keep reading; have a good book on hand.

- Some employers can be reluctant to hire young people because they don't know if they'll show up on time, dress properly and act professionally around the office. Show

them that you can!

- When you are starting a new job, you may feel a little insecure, but at least show the right attitude. You'd be amazed at how far that can get you.

- Don't take a year off before going to college. But you may want to take some time between college and grad school to work or intern to decide if you really need and want a master's degree or Ph.D.

- Being happy with your chosen career means a lot and is more rewarding than developing a taste for an expensive lifestyle.

- Never neglect your mental health. Your own happiness should be Job No. 1. Without it, you'll struggle at everything else.

- Most people are brand junkies. That includes most potential employers. Get the best blue-chip company names on your resume that you can.

- Stretch yourself beyond your comfort zone - in work and in life - but only in stages. Don't try for too much at once.

- Move to where the jobs are and don't get too tied down early in your career. Remain flexible.

**Congratulations to our
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Graduates**

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Want to make more money? Keep studying

A total of 4.43 million college students are graduating in 2021: 24.6% receive associate's degrees; 49.9% receive bachelor's degrees.

The evidence that a college degree significantly improves one's employment prospects and earnings potential is overwhelming.

Bachelor's degree holders are

half as likely to be unemployed as their peers who only have a high school degree.

Most college graduates will make \$1 million in additional earnings on average over their lifetime than those students with only a high school diploma, according to a study conducted by Georgetown

University.

Economists expect the job growth to continue in the coming months.

Management consulting firm Oxford Economics predicts that a total of 8 million jobs will be added this year, reducing the unemploy-

ment rate to a low 4.3% by the final quarter of 2021.

If you're not planning to go to a four-year college, enrolling in a post-high school training program or junior college and learning a profession can pay off. Starting at a

community college and transferring to a four-year university later can save graduates and parents money. This can also be a good choice if you're not sure what you want to study yet. Whatever you decide, your community is proud of you.

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