Please read carefully and thoroughly the following Commencement instructions.

**Pay particular attention to your ceremony’s time.** Please note that you must attend the ceremony for your academic unit. For further information, see also “Graduating from Southern Illinois University Carbondale” on the web at [http://registrar.siu.edu/records/Graduation.htm](http://registrar.siu.edu/records/Graduation.htm).

**Attendance** – Attendance at Commencement is not required; however, if you do attend, cap and gown attire is required. For our active duty military graduates, formal (dress) military attire is acceptable. It is assumed that Military Programs students will not be attending the on-campus ceremony unless the graduating student notifies the respective base coordinator otherwise.

The Commencement ceremony is an important occasion not only for you but also for other graduates, families, and friends. Although it is a happy time, it should not be a time of revelry. Your conduct at the ceremony should be dignified. Alcoholic beverages may not be brought into the Arena. Security personnel will be present during the entire ceremony.

**Caps, Gowns, and Announcements** – You may order caps, gowns, and announcements from the University Bookstore. All rented caps and gowns must be returned immediately after the ceremony to the University Bookstore staff present in the Arena lobby. The tassel is worn on the right side of the cap until the degree is conferred; and, after conferral, the tassel is moved to the left side of the cap.

**Seating for Guests** – Seating is available in the Arena for guests, and tickets are not required for admittance. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Arena will be open one hour before the ceremonies are to begin.

**Ceremony** – Undergraduate degree candidates must pick up their name/seating card in the lobby at the Arena 30 minutes prior to the ceremony. Candidates will find a seat on the main floor in the designated area for their college. Please note: you **MUST** have a name/seating card before proceeding across the stage.

**Diplomas** – Diplomas for all Associate, Bachelor, and Master's degree candidates will be mailed **eight to ten weeks** after the ceremony, providing that all degree requirements are completed and any financial obligations to the University are cleared.

*If degree requirements are not met, the undergraduate degree candidates will be moved automatically to the following semester. Undergraduate degree candidates who were automatically moved to the following semester list from a prior application will not be moved and will be required to complete and submit a new application for the future commencement in which they intend to complete their degree requirements.*

**Degree Clearance** – Degree candidates are responsible for ensuring that all degree requirements are met, that all incomplete grades are completed, and that evidence of these two requirements is on file within four weeks following commencement date. Failure to do this by the degree candidate may result in a delay in the degree clearance and a delay in the issuance of the diploma and any transcripts.

**Photographs** – Professional photographers from Chappell Studio will be available to take photographs during the Commencement Ceremonies. Please advise relatives and friends not to go beyond the designated areas to take photographs. You may call Chappell Studio at 1-800-424-3686 for further information about photographs.