

Frequently Asked Questions About Commencement

What is the difference between “graduating” and “walking” (or “participating”)?

A student graduates from Fort Lewis College when he or she completes his or her graduation requirements and is awarded a degree. “Walking” or “participating” in commencement is ceremonial and does **NOT** guarantee a degree has been earned.

When do summer graduates graduate?

If you are completing your graduation requirements during any of the three summer sessions, your degree will be conferred in August.

When do summer graduates “walk” or “participate” in commencement?

Because Fort Lewis College does not host a summer graduation ceremony, all summer graduates are welcome to participate in Winter Commencement.

How do I let the Registrar’s Office know I want to participate in Winter Commencement if I’m graduating in the summer?

Summer graduates are automatically included in the Winter Commencement ceremony. At the beginning of your last semester of attendance, verify your graduation date as “summer” with the Registrar’s Office.

Why don’t I get my diploma at commencement?

Registrar’s Office staff must verify the completion of all graduation requirements before degrees can be awarded. This process occurs after commencement to accommodate the deadline for final grades.

When will I receive my diploma?

Diplomas are issued to graduates approximately 4 weeks after the end of the term, after final grades have been received and fulfillment of all requirements has been verified.

What are the grade point averages to receive Honors?

To graduate with honors, students must have earned, in residence at Fort Lewis College, no fewer than 60 semester credit hours. No honors are awarded upon receipt of a second bachelor’s degree. Grade point averages required for honors are as follows:

- Summa Cum Laude - Grade point average of 3.8 to 4.0
- Magna Cum Laude - Grade point average of 3.6 to 3.79
- Cum Laude - Grade point average of 3.4 to 3.59