

# RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

## Student Commencement Speaker Guidelines

Riverside City College invites students to apply to become a 2024 Commencement Speaker. It is a distinguished honor to be selected to present a commencement speech.

Four students will be selected to deliver a 2024 Commencement Address.

Graduating students interested in delivering the speech must meet these guidelines:

- Completed graduation application
- Good disciplinary standing
- Record of academic achievement, service or campus involvement
- Be an eligible 2024 Riverside City College graduate/prospective graduate
- Attend the graduation speaker competition on **Tuesday, April 23rd from 12:45-2:00 pm on campus**

Speeches should address the following:

- Information about your personal development and future outlook.
- How your personal experiences as a college student shaped your desire to be a better person and/or make a difference in the world.
- Include examples from collegiate life, course work, co-curricular involvement, service, peer and other relationships developed.

The speech should also:

- Appeal to and capture the attention of a broad and diverse audience.
- Include creative and appealing techniques such as metaphors, stories, quotes or humor.
- Be structured around a theme
- Be four-to-six minutes in length, approximately 750-900 words

### How to Apply

Students must submit the following by April 17th at 5 p.m. Materials must be submitted electronically to [admissionsriverside@rcc.edu](mailto:admissionsriverside@rcc.edu). Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Application
- Draft of the speech (Note: The speech will be reviewed by blind review, meaning your name and identity will not be known to the committee, so be sure to include your name on the application but do NOT include any identifiers in the text of the speech).

Note: The finalist must be available to be mentored by the Center for Communication Excellence (Martin Luther King Building 221) prior to delivering the speech at graduation.

For questions, contact Admissions & Records at [admissionsriverside@rcc.edu](mailto:admissionsriverside@rcc.edu).

**Process**

A committee of faculty, staff, and students will select the student speaker. The committee will use the following rubric as an evaluative tool for each speech and presentation:

<b>The Student's Speech</b>	<b>Needed Improvement</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Thoughtfully reflects on how personal experiences have shaped their journey				
Uses specific examples as well as effective language to illustrate the message				
Appeals to a broad and diverse audience and community members				
Effectively engages the audience and holds its attention				
Dynamic vocal variety (rate, pitch, fluctuation)				
Displays appropriate self-confidence and extemporaneous delivery				
Has clear and identifiable main points that are each separate, distinct, and fully developed with explanation and examples that support the message of the speech.				

# RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

## Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) Being Awarded :

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GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Speaking coursework completed either at RCC or another institution: (Note: while it is advisable that applicants have had prior public speaking coursework, it is not a requirement).

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Why do you believe you should be selected as the commencement speaker?

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