



Student Commencement Speaker Information and Selection Guidelines

1. Selection Student Speaker for Fall 2023 Commencement on Dec. 14, 2023
 - Student speakers may be nominated, but must complete the application.
 - Eligible students must be graduating by the end of the fall term.
 - All applicants should follow the directions on the speaker information guidelines, including all the required information on an outline of the speech they plan to make, if selected.
 - Only one student speaker will be selected by the Selection Committee which is appointed and chaired by Dr. Mark Bukowski, dean, student services.
2. Timeline
 - Notice of the opportunity to speak at Commencement will be posted at all College sites, on the **College website: southflorida.edu**, social media, and **Panther Central** beginning **Friday, Sept. 1, 2023**.
 - Information and applications will be available at the DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Lake Placid campus locations, and at all academic deans' offices.
 - A detailed outline of the speech is **due on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023** and may be turned in via email to SFSCStudentServices@southflorida.edu,
 - The Selection Committee will read the detailed outlines and select finalists by **Monday, Nov. 6, 2023**.
 - Finalists will present speeches to the Selection Committee on **Monday, Nov. 13, 2023**.
 - The Commencement speaker finalist will be notified by **Monday, Nov. 20, 2023**.
3. Speech Requirements
 - The speech should not exceed 10 minutes.
 - The Commencement Speaker should use appropriate examples, stories, and/or instances of humor for a graduation ceremony and the audience. The audience will range from small children to senior adults, the graduates, the SFSC District Board of Trustees, students, faculty, and staff.
 - Applicants must select their own topics. They may wish to make points in the message that are relevant to college graduates. Some possible topics might be the value of education, specifically at SFSC; the role that education will play in the graduates' futures; or ways that education changes people's lives, etc. These are only examples.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER APPLICATION INFORMATION

Due Monday, Oct. 30, 2023

Thank you for applying to become the 2023 SFSC Commencement Speaker.

You MUST BE ABLE TO complete all graduation requirements by the end of the fall term of 2023 to be eligible. The Selection Committee will review all applications and finalists will be selected by **Monday, Nov. 6.** Finalists will present their speeches to the Selection Committee on **Monday, Nov. 13.**

Finalists will be notified of the speaker selection on or around **Monday, Nov. 20, 2023.**

The Commencement Ceremony is the **evening of Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023.**

Applicants must select their own topic. They may want their speeches to: (1) address topics of interest to graduates and the audience, (2) include humor, and (3) be no longer than 10 minutes in length.

Your speech is your application, please provide a detailed outline of your speech with the following **required information:**

- ✓ **Name**
- ✓ **Student ID#**
- ✓ **Address**
- ✓ **City/State**
- ✓ **Phone Number(s)**
- ✓ **Email address**
- ✓ **Degree or Certificate Program**
- ✓ **Graduation Date**

Email your speech to one of the following email addresses on or before close of business on **Monday, Oct. 30, 2023:**

SFSCstudentservices@southflorida.edu

For additional information you may contact:

Dean Mark Bukowski, Office of Student Services, 863-784-7107
Mark.Bukowski@southflorida.edu