

# **Class of 2026**

## **Somerset Career Academy**

### **Senior Handbook**

Principal . . . . .	Erika Rains
Vice Principal . . . . .	Tim Tredor

## **Somerset Career Academy**

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# Welcome Class of 2026

Somerset Career Academy extends a warm welcome to each of you, as you are working to complete the final year of your high school career. We want you to experience a successful year. We are very excited to assist you with making this a memorable time, as many exciting activities are being planned for you. This handbook is provided to keep you up to date with events, deadlines, and pending fees.

The class of 2026 is our second graduation class. It is important that we build strong relationships and memories by participating in these planned activities. As school leaders, we expect you to set an example, stay motivated and most of all have a memorable final year filled with fun school spirited activities.

Please know that as your class sponsors, we are here to help you. Feel free to stop by (at an appropriate time), email or leave a note for any of us if you need assistance. We are here for you!

## Class of 2026 Contact Info:

Ms. Erika Rains      [Rains.Erika@somersetcareeracademy.org](mailto:Rains.Erika@somersetcareeracademy.org)

Ms. Ginna Walker      [Walker.Ginna@somersetcareeracademy.org](mailto:Walker.Ginna@somersetcareeracademy.org)

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## Senior Fees

Senior fees cover everything *except* activity week, Grad Bash, and Prom which can be purchased separately.

**Senior fees for the 2026 class are \$215.00 per student.**

The payment for senior fees will be collected online, via the school store. **The fees are due by March 27, 2026.**

## Refund Policy

*If you have paid your graduation fees and do not graduate in 2026, but you return to Somerset Career Academy in the fall of 2026 as a 2nd year senior, the senior fee for the Class of 2027 will be waived.*

*If you do not graduate in 2026 and do not return to Somerset Career Academy, no refund will be issued.*

## Graduation Cap and Gown

Representatives from Jostens will be at Somerset Career Academy, on **October 8, 2025**, for a mandatory senior presentation on caps, gowns, victory hood, and class of 2026 tassels. The ordering of your cap and gown for graduation will be taken by Jostens. You must complete an order form for the cap and gown when Jostens representatives are on campus during the announced date. **Cap and Gown cost is included in the senior fee.** Jostens representatives will be on campus taking graduation material orders on **October 8, 2025**, from 6:00pm – 7:00pm.

## Graduation Announcements

The Jostens representatives will present the Somerset Career Academy Class of 2026 graduation announcements and other graduation memorabilia on **October 8, 2025**. The cost of announcements varies depending upon the item(s) you choose to purchase and the quantity. A deposit for your announcement order will need to be paid when you place your order. The amount of the required deposit will be given to you in the meeting with Jostens. If you pay by check, **MAKE THE CHECK PAYABLE TO JOSTENS.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Parents are encouraged to meet with Jostens. Do not miss this opportunity to order all the items you may need to celebrate your graduation\*\*\*\*\***

# PICKING UP YOUR CAP AND GOWN FOR GRADUATION

**Your cap and gown may be picked up on Friday, May 15, 2026, at Senior Check-out.**

All seniors will receive **8** tickets to the graduation ceremony. This number is determined by the space available. Due to the planned seating arrangement for graduation and because of traffic and security considerations, there is seating capacity for the graduation ceremony that will be enforced.

Graduates may request extra tickets during the second week in April. Every attempt will be made to give you additional tickets. However, there is **NO GUARANTEE** that you will receive the total number of tickets you request. The request form for additional tickets will be in the main office spindle in April.

**Before your cap and gown can be issued to you, all obligations (books, fees, parking fines, athletics, activity money, and any other outstanding obligation) must be cleared.**

It is not wise to wait until the last minute to take care of these important matters.

## 2026 Graduation

Seniors, you and your Parent/Guardian must read and sign the SCA Graduation Contract on the last page of this handbook to participate in the graduation ceremony.

To graduate in 2026, you are **REQUIRED** to attend the rehearsal that will guide you through the Graduation Ceremony activities. The rehearsal will be at the Civic Center on Graduation Day at 12:00 PM.

**IF YOU WANT TO WALK FOR GRADUATION, YOU MUST ATTEND THE REHEARSAL.**

## Required Dress Code for Graduation

*Ladies:* Do not let your dress show below the hem of your gown. Dress shoes are mandatory.

Thong type shoes (any type of flip flops) are not allowed.

This is a safety issue for your protection as you are going up and down the stairs of a stage.

*Gentlemen:* Dress pants must be worn. You must wear dress shoes.

No tennis shoes or sandals may be worn.

# REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDING SENIOR ACTIVITIES

## Seniors must:

### 1. HAVE A GOOD ATTENDANCE RECORD

Excessive absences may result in NOT being allowed to participate in Senior Activities. No more than 10 (ten) unexcused absences per year. Special circumstances will be addressed and considered on an individual basis. Remember that all notes for absences need to be turned into the attendance office within 3 days. The note should include first and last name.

### 2. BE A SENIOR OF RECORD (20 or more COMPLETED credits)

School records must verify you are classified as a senior and will graduate in May 2026. You must have a minimum GPA of 2.0.

### 3. HAVE A GOOD DISCIPLINE RECORD

### 4. TURN IN CORRECTLY COMPLETED and SIGNED PERMISSION FORMS BY THE SPECIFIED DATE

All financial obligations must be paid in full to participate in all senior activities.

At SCA it is expected that ALL students will be on their best behavior at all senior activities. **Seniors who do not follow the rules at any of the senior activities will NOT be permitted to attend other senior functions.** You may also be subject to a discipline referral, along with disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from walking in the graduation ceremony.

## SENIOR PINNING

The Senior Pinning will be held at the Senior Banquet on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026**, at 6:00PM at the Havert L. Fenn Center.

Tickets cost TBD.

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES WEEK

See separate handout.

## Basic Graduation Requirements

<b>High School Graduation Programs</b>		
<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>24+ Credit Diploma</b>	<b>CTE Pathway Diploma</b>
<b>English</b>	ELA 1, 2, 3, 4 <b>(4 credits)</b>	ELA 1, 2, 3, 4 <b>(4 credits)</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	Algebra 1, Geometry, and an additional 2 credits in Math. <b>(4 credits)</b>	Algebra 1, Geometry, and an additional 2 credits in Math. <b>(4 credits)</b>
<b>Science</b>	Biology, and an additional 2 credits in an equally rigorous Science course with a lab component. <b>(3 credits)</b>	Biology, and an additional 2 credits in an equally rigorous Science course with a lab component. <b>(3 credits)</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	World History, US History, 0.5 credit in US Government, and 0.5 credit in Economics. <b>(3 credits)</b>	World History, US History, 0.5 credit in US Government, and 0.5 credit in Economics. <b>(3 credits)</b>
<b>Personal Financial Literacy</b>	<b>(0.5 credit)</b> in Personal Financial Literacy	<b>(0.5 credit)</b> in Personal Financial Literacy
<b>Fine Arts or Performing Arts, Speech, Debate, or Practical Arts</b>	<b>(1 credit)</b> in Fine Arts or Performing Arts, Speech, Debate, or Practical Arts.	Not Required
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>(1 credit)</b> in Physical Education.	Not Required
<b>Foreign Language</b>	Not required for HS graduation but required for admission to state universities.	Not Required
<b>CTE</b>	Not Required	<b>(2 credits)</b> in CTE courses must result in a program completion and industry certification.
<b>Electives</b>	<b>(7.5 credits)</b> in electives.	<b>(1.5 credits)</b> in electives: 1.5 credits in work-based learning programs.
<b>Additional Graduation Requirements</b>		
<b>Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements</b>	Students must earn a 2.0 unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale for all cohort years.	Students must earn a 2.0 unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale for all cohort years.
<b>State Assessments Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 10 ELA or a concordant score.</li> <li>• Algebra 1 EOC or a comparative score.</li> <li>• EOC for Algebra, Geometry, Biology, and US History.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 10 ELA or a concordant score.</li> <li>• Algebra 1 EOC or a comparative score.</li> <li>• EOC for Algebra, Geometry, Biology, and US History.</li> </ul>

# Graduation Cords

**Industry Scholar Designation: Black/Gold – Standard High School Diploma plus one or more industry certifications off of the State’s CAPE list**

**Credit Requirements:**

- 4 ELA (English)
- 4 Math: Algebra 1, Geometry, and 2 additional math credits
- 3 Science: 1 Biology, plus 2 additional science credits.
- 3 Social Studies: 1 World History, 1 US History, ½ US Government ½ Economics
- ½ Personal Financial Literacy
- 1 P.E.
- 1 Fine or Performing Practical Art
- 7 ½ credits in Electives

**SCA Cord: Black/Silver – Standard CTE Diploma plus one or more extra Industry Certifications off of the State’s CAPE list**

**Credit Requirements:**

- 4 English
- 4 Math (or 2 plus 2 College Level Industry Certifications)
- 3 Science Credits (or 2 plus College Level Industry Certification)
- 3 Social Studies: 1 World History, 1 US History, ½ US Government ½ Economics
- ½ Personal Financial Literacy
- 3 Career Technical Education Certifications
- 1 ½ Electives in a work-based learning program.

**Scholar Designation Cord: Teal/White**

**Credit Requirements:**

- Earn 1 Credit in Algebra II
- Earn 1 Credit in Statistics or an Equally Rigorous Mathematics Course
- Earn 1 Credit in Chemistry or Physics
- Earn 1 Credit in a course Equally Rigorous to Chemistry or Physics
- Earn 2 credits in the same World Language
- Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or Dual Enrollment course
- Pass Algebra 1 EOC exam
- Pass Geometry EOC exam
- Pass Biology 1 EOC exam
- Pass US History EOC exam
- Pass State Assessments for Communication and Math
- 100 Volunteer Hours

<u>Cord</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
<b>High Honors Cord:</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>GPA 4.0+ (Weighted)</b>
<b>Honors Cord:</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>GPA of 3.5-3.9 (Weighted)</b>
<b>Talented 20 Cord:</b>	<b>Teal</b>	<b>Top 20% of Seniors Class</b>
<b>Volunteer Cord:</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>250 Volunteer Hours on File</b>
<b>FFEA:</b>	<b>Light Pink/Light Purple</b>	<b>Member 2+ Years</b>
<b>FBA:</b>	<b>Light Blue/Ivory</b>	<b>Member 4+Years</b>

## Valedictorian and Salutatorian

To be selected as *Valedictorian*, you must have the highest weighted GPA **AND** have been a Somerset student continuously since the first day of 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

To be selected as *Salutatorian*, you must have the second highest weighted GPA **AND** have been a Somerset student continuously since the first day of 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

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Farewell Speech is given by the FFEA Secretary, a Junior at SCA.

Speech of Gratitude is given by the FBA President, a Senior at SCA.



# Somerset Career Academy Graduation Contract

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name of senior) being a senior of the Class of 2026 at SCA and planning to participate in the Graduation Ceremony to be conducted on **May 23, 2026**, agree to the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL ATTEND the Graduation Rehearsal at 12:00 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL STAY FOR THE ENTIRE REHEARSAL.

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL FOLLOW all guidelines concerning behavior and dress code.

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL NOT DISRUPT the Graduation Ceremony by leaving my seat at inappropriate times.

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL ARRIVE ON TIME 12:00 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL NOT LEAVE the Graduation Ceremony until the Recessional is complete, and I have received my diploma and returned my gown.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand and acknowledge that failure to attend Graduation Rehearsal in its entirety may result in my not participating in the ceremony.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, as the parent/guardian of the above listed Senior of the Class of 2026, have read this Graduation Contract. I understand and acknowledge its contents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_