

Ramsey Regional Activity Center - Cullowhee, NC

High School Graduation FAQs:

(for parking map please visit ramseycenter.wcu.edu)

- ***How do I get to the Ramsey Center?***

The Ramsey Center is located at 92 Catamount Road, Cullowhee NC 28723

From Asheville, Greensboro, Raleigh, N.C.: Take I-40 west to Exit 27 (Hwys. 19/23/74). Go 21.5 miles to Exit 85 (Sylva, Cullowhee, Western Carolina University). At the third traffic light (bottom of the hill), turn left on Hwy. 107. Go approximately seven miles until you see Western Carolina University on your left. Continue south on 107 and turn left at Forest Hills Road (the third traffic signal). The Ramsey Center (big black glass building) will be on your left, adjacent to the football stadium.

From Atlanta: Take I-85 north to I-985 north (towards Gainesville). I-985 will eventually become Hwy. 23/441. Follow this highway to Franklin, N.C. where you'll need to take a right to stay on Hwy. 23/441. Continue on this route until you come to the intersection at Dillsboro, N.C. Take a right at the light (Hwy. 107) and go through downtown Dillsboro and then downtown Sylva. Continue past Sylva for approximately seven more miles until you see Western Carolina University on your left. Continue south on 107 and turn left at Forest Hills Road (the third traffic signal). The Ramsey Center (big black glass building) will be on your left, adjacent to the football stadium.

From Knoxville, Tenn.: Take I-40 east to Exit 20 (Maggie Valley, N.C. and Hwy. 276). Follow Hwy. 276 toward Waynesville, N.C. At overpass, get on Hwy. 23/74 south, towards Sylva. Take Exit 85 (Sylva, Cullowhee, Western Carolina University). At third traffic light (bottom of the hill), turn left on Hwy. 107. Go approximately seven miles until you see Western Carolina University on your left. Continue south on 107 and turn left at Forest Hills Road (the third traffic signal). The Ramsey Center (big black glass building) will be on your left, adjacent to the football stadium.

From Greenville, Spartanburg, S.C.: Take I-26 west to I-40 west. Follow directions from Asheville (above).

- ***I have a family member who is disabled and cannot walk from the parking lot. Where should they park?***
 - Parking for patrons with mobile disabilities is available on a first come-first served basis and is located in Lots 9A & 10 on the ground level of the Ramsey Center. An official disabled parking tag will be required in order to park in these lots. There is also a drop-off area on Forrest Hills Rd. For patrons who are being driven by a family member, the drop-off area allows for entrance into the concourse level of the Ramsey Center without the need for use of any stairs. This drop-off area is the most convenient to visitors in a wheel chair and provides the quickest, most simple route into the building. Drivers may drop off their guests and then park in one of the parking lots closest to this area. For patrons

arriving in a vehicle that utilizes a wheelchair assist ramp or lift, the North East drop-off area is the most convenient location that allows space for accessible, vehicle mounted assist devices.

- ***I am a graduating student. Where do I need to be for line up?***
 - Students should report to the Auxiliary Gym on the first floor for line up prior to your graduation ceremony. Please contact your school officials for exact times for your class line up.
- ***I am the parent of a graduating student. Where do I need to go?***
 - If you are driving your graduate to the ceremony, you may drop them off near the Auxiliary Gym entrance on the first floor (nearest the Creek Parking Lot). The Ramsey Center concourse will open for parents and guests at 5:00pm on graduation day. The concourse area is on the 3rd floor of the building. Doors to the arena where the ceremony takes place will open at 6:00pm.
- ***I am faculty from the school and will be participating in the ceremony. Where do I line up?***
 - Faculty line up is in the truck tunnel on the first floor of the building.
- ***Can I come down to the arena floor to wish my graduate good luck?***
 - Due to security concerns and Ramsey Center policy, there will be no access to the arena floor prior to or during the graduation ceremony. This is a no-exceptions policy that will be enforced by event staff and law enforcement.
- ***Will concessions be available during the ceremony?***
 - Concession stands will not be open prior to or during the graduation ceremony.
- ***Do I need a ticket for this event? Is seating reserved?***
 - Graduation ceremonies are non-ticketed events. You do not need a ticket to attend. Seating is on a first-come/first-served basis and there is no reserved seating for the ceremony. Reserving or marking off rows of seating is discouraged in order for everyone in attendance to have the opportunity to sit where they please.
- ***Can I bring my camera into the arena?***
 - Yes, cameras and video recorders will be permitted in the arena during the ceremony. Camera tripods will not be allowed due to creating a tripping hazard and obstructed access in and out of seating sections.
- ***I want to get a good photo of my graduate walking across the stage. Can I get closer for a good photo?***

- You may walk to the bottom of your seating section to take photos while your graduate is walking across the stage, but you will be expected to return to your seat as quickly as possible in order to keep the aisles unobstructed. Not returning to your seat after being asked to do so by event staff may result in being escorted out of the facility.
- ***I want everyone to know how proud I am of my graduate. Can I cheer when they walk across the stage?***
 - Of course you can! You've got a lot to be proud of! Remember that this is a very big event in your life and the lives of everyone in attendance. We ask that you be respectful of the people around you and the students who are graduating. Air horns, cowbells or any other kind of noise makers will NOT be allowed inside the building. This policy will be strictly enforced by event staff and your school's law enforcement agency.

RAMSEY CENTER POLICIES

- No outside food or drinks, including bottles or cans of any kind will be allowed inside the Ramsey Center.
- No alcohol allowed on premises.
- No air horns, fireworks, cowbells or any other kinds of noise makers will be allowed inside the building. This policy will be strictly enforced by event staff and school law enforcement.
- No weapons of any kind.
- No smoking or vaping in the Ramsey Center. Signs will direct patrons toward designated smoking areas outside of the building.
- Patrons and their belongings are subject to search prior to entering the building.
- Standing or sitting in aisles or entryways is strictly prohibited.

The following security enhancements are now in place for guests attending Ramsey Center events.

- Guests should be prepared for enhanced screening of persons and belongings, including opening coats/outerwear and emptying pockets. Guests should also be prepared for pat downs or screening by metal detectors operated by security personnel.
- Backpacks are NOT permitted at Ramsey Center events. Guests will be asked to empty their pockets during enhanced screening procedures. Items not allowed inside the Ramsey Center include but are not limited to: Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, firearms, knives, outside food/beverages or containers.
- One clear plastic bag per person will be permitted for medical or child care needs.

High School Graduation Parking at Western Carolina University

- 1 Commencement traffic can enter campus from NC 107 at either the main entrance or Forest Hills entrance.
- 2 The Stadium Lot parking will be available for cars displaying disabled persons permits.
- 3 The circle (red) behind the Ramsey Center will be used only for drop-off of persons with disabilities and CatTran unloading. No parking.

