



**Valedictory Speaker Application Process, Eligibility Criteria and
Application Requirements for Commencement 2026**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher based on your fall 2025 grades.
2. Strong extracurricular involvement/volunteerism/work experience/other.
3. Strong leadership skills/abilities.
4. Ability to effectively convey educational and other relevant experiences both in writing and verbally.
5. Most of your graduation units must have been completed at Napa Valley College.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper (2 pages maximum):**
 - a) Why would you like to be the student speaker at this year’s Commencement ceremony?
 - b) What experiences have you had at Napa Valley College and/or in the community that would make you a good representative of the college?
 - c) What qualities do you possess that would make you a strong candidate to be the student valedictory speaker?

2. **Submit a FINAL DRAFT of your prepared speech (approximately 700-1000 words) that you would present if you were chosen. See next page for guidance on how to write a winning commencement speech.**

COMMENCEMENT 2026 TIMELINE	
Please note these April dates on your calendar. Dates are subject to change and could be sooner.	
Tuesday, March 31 by 5 p.m.	Application packet is due.
Monday, April 6 after 5 p.m.	Students will be notified if they have been invited to present their speech to the selection committee. Selected finalists will be called to select a 10-minute interview appointment.
Wednesday, April 8 @ 10 a.m. (after Spring Break)	Interviews: Those selected will interview and make their speech presentation to the selection committee on this date during their 10-minute appointment.
Wednesday, April 8 by 5 p.m.	One student speaker will be selected by this date.



INSTRUCTIONS:

Your valedictory speaker application packet must contain the following documents.

1. The Graduate contact information below.
2. Responses to the three application questions.
3. A written speech (700-1000 words max. or 5 minutes max). Please practice and time your speech. You will be asked to shorten it if it goes over.
4. Please include your first and last name as a page header in your packet and also include headings or page header in your Word or PDF document to show which are your application answers and which is your speech.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Tuesday, March 31, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. Email completed packet to NVCCommencement@napavalley.edu.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS:

Contact us via phone (707) 256-7362, in person in Rm 1330, or via email at NVCCommencement@napavalley.edu.

GRADUATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Student ID#: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Major: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Application Questions

1. Why would you like to be the student speaker at this year's Commencement ceremony?



2. What experiences have you had at Napa Valley College and/or in the community that would make you a good representative of the college?

3. What qualities do you possess that would make you a strong candidate to be the student valedictory speaker?