

February 2026

Dear Student of the Class of 2026:

At this year's Commencement Ceremony, a representative of the Class of 2026 will be asked to give greetings and a short address to those gathered for the occasion. You are invited to apply to be that representative provided you have graduated in **January 2026** or have a graduation application **on file and approved** for **June 2026 or August 2026**. (**Note: If you plan to graduate in June or August, you must have a graduation application on file before you submit this form.**) If you are eligible and interested in applying for this honor, you should do the following:

1. Prepare a detailed address designed to last no more than **three** minutes. This address should extend greetings, and contain remarks which are relevant to the occasion and of interest to a wide audience. You must submit the entire text of the speech. (See below for suggestions regarding things to consider when preparing your address.)
2. Please e-mail a draft of your speech, and an audio recording\* of you giving the speech **as you would at Commencement** to me at: [deanofstudents@ramapo.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@ramapo.edu). The above materials must be received by me no later than **4:30 p.m. on March 6, 2026**.

After the deadline of **March 6, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.**, a Selection Committee will review the submissions. Members of the Committee review the written texts and are not aware of the writer's name. Only after the group is reduced to a very small number of finalists does the Committee listen to the recordings, and review the personal information provided. All applicants will be notified by March 26, 2026. The person chosen will be offered assistance in completing the final draft of the speech.

**\* Please note:** If you do not have access to the technology required to make an audio recording of your speech, or if you need a flash drive to save your speech, please contact me at [deanofstudents@ramapo.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@ramapo.edu) at your earliest convenience and accommodations will be made. If you require disability related accommodations, please contact me at least 48 hours before the submission deadline so those accommodations can be made.

**Examples of what the Selection Committee is looking for in a speech:**

1. Thoughtful and insightful writing and robust delivery	4. Connection between Ramapo experiences and the future
2. A speech that is no longer than 3 minutes	5. Impact Ramapo has had on the lives of those in the Class
3. Understanding the mission, culture, & values of Ramapo as embodied in the experiences of the Class	6. Relevant humor (no "inside" jokes)

This is a wonderful opportunity. I hope you will consider applying for this honor. If you have any questions, please contact me at (201) 684-7457 or via email at [deanofstudents@ramapo.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@ramapo.edu).

Sincerely,

Christine Smith  
Coordinator of Student Affairs

