Commencement exercises for the Alpine campus of Sul Ross State University are held twice each academic year, in December and May, at the conclusion of each fall and spring semester. At Rio Grande College commencement is held each December and May at a single RGC location that typically varies from one semester to the next. The University Convocations Committee and the dean of the Rio Grande College, working directly with the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, have primary responsibility for the planning and implementation of each commencement exercise.

Participation in commencement exercises is expected of all full-time faculty members. Temporary faculty appointees and other special instructional personnel are encouraged to participate. Requests for absence from commencement ceremonies will be granted based on the University Policy on Faculty Absences, Section 2.10, with the inclusion of absences for religious conflicts.

Participating faculty are expected to wear their appropriate academic regalia. The university bookstore can, upon request, make available to members of the faculty appropriate regalia for either purchase or rent.