Student Participation in Commencement Ceremonies

The School of Nursing holds Commencement ceremonies annually in May. The following conditions are required for student participation in the May commencement:

**PhD and DNP:** Students must have completed/successfully defended their dissertation and filed the final dissertation/project with the graduate school by the graduate school's deadline.

With the approval of the PhD or DNP Program Director, students who missed the deadline for filling the final version of their dissertation/project with the graduate school may “walk” early in the May Commencement. In this circumstance, the committee chair will send an email to the Program Director (with a copy to the student) signifying that the student has successfully defended the final version of the dissertation/project by the deadline. The Program Director will respond via e-mail to the committee chair and student confirming eligibility to walk at graduation. Under special circumstances, a student who will graduate in August may be permitted to “walk” early in the May Commencement with documented permission of the Program Director.

**MSN:** Students must have completed all course work including removal of any incompletes, passed their comprehensive examination and completed/successfully defended and turned in a copy of their completed MSN Paper (or thesis).

With the approval of the MSN Program Director, students who missed the deadline for filling the final version of their Master's Paper (or Thesis) to the graduate school may “walk” in the May Commencement. In this circumstance, the committee chair will send an email to the Program Director (with a copy to the student) signifying that the student has successfully defended the final version of the MSN paper (or thesis) by the deadline. The Program Director will respond via e-mail to the committee chair and student confirming eligibility to walk at Graduation after confirming that all other criteria are met with the SON Registrar. Under special circumstances, students who will graduate in August may be permitted to “walk” early in the May Commencement with documented permission of the MSN Program Director.

**BSN:** Students must have completed all course work including removal of any incompletes. Under special circumstances, BSN students may “walk”
early in May Commencement with documented approval of the BSN Program Director.

Under all circumstance, a student may participate in Commencement only once. The date the University will confer the degree is the date that will be listed in the Commencement program. That is, if a PhD student did not meet the deadlines for submitting the final version of their dissertation to the Graduate School, and had received permission from the Program Director to "walk in May", the Commencement program would list that person as an August graduate.

Approved by Administrative Council, 3/28/03; revised 02/09; revised 02/14/12, 3/7/14
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