

Commencement Deferral Policy

Purpose: This policy outlines the conditions under which a student may request to defer participating in the commencement ceremony from the University, and the procedures to be followed in submitting and processing such requests.

Eligibility for Commencement Deferral

Students who have completed or are in the process of completing all academic requirements for their degree may request to defer participation in commencement for limited reasons.

Acceptable reasons for graduation deferral include, but are not limited to:

- **Health or personal issues**, including mental health or family emergencies, that require additional time.
- **Visa or immigration-related issues**, including delays in processing optional practical training (OPT), changes in visa status, or other regulatory constraints affecting graduation timing.

Conditions of Deferral

- Participation in commencement may be deferred for a maximum of one academic year from the designated year your degree was conferred.

Deferral Application Procedure

Students requesting to defer graduation must:

- Complete and submit a **Commencement Deferral Request Form** by the deadline of Monday, March 2, 2026.

Incomplete or late submissions may result in denial of the deferral request. Once your commencement deferral request is approved, you will not be able to reverse your decision.

Review and Approval

- Notification of approval or denial will be sent to the student's university email address.
- If denied, the student will be expected to participate in the commencement ceremony as originally scheduled.

Please note: Degree Conferral is the legal achievement, while Commencement is the celebratory event.

Degree Conferral is the official, legal, and academic awarding of the degree. Degree Conferral is the moment the degree is earned and recognized.

Commencement is the formal, celebratory ceremony. Commencement is a symbolic event where you walk across the stage.

Graduation is the entire process of completing a degree. Graduation is an ambiguous term; avoid using it for clarity.