Undergraduate Students

- Undergraduate students needing additional credits during the summer may participate in commencement with the approval of their department chairperson and dean of their college if they provide a feasible plan to complete their requirements by August 31st of that academic year. Typically, students should not seek approval if they have more than 9 credits to complete during the summer. Students seeking this option are required to submit the Permission to Participate - Commencement form along with required department chairperson/college dean signatures and proof of summer registration to the Registrar’s Office. Students who require coursework after August 31, 2023 are not permitted to participate in the Commencement 2023 ceremony; they will be eligible to attend the Commencement 2024 ceremony.

Graduate Students

- Master’s degree candidates having a thesis requirement may participate in the Spring commencement ceremony only if the student has completed all course requirements prior to commencement and has the reasonable possibility of finishing the thesis by the end of the fall semester following commencement. In the MFA program, the visual thesis must also be completed prior to commencement. Master’s students with a non-thesis option may participate in the graduation ceremonies only if they: (a) have three (3) or fewer credits to complete to earn their degree; (b) complete those three (3) or fewer credits in the summer immediately following commencement and prior to the start of the ensuing fall semester; (c) are registered for those three (3) or fewer credits by Commencement day; (d) are expected to complete any other graduation requirements (e.g., project report) by the end of the ensuing fall semester; and (e) have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.000.
- Doctoral candidates must complete all degree requirements prior to participating in the commencement ceremonies. Doctoral candidates may participate in the ceremony if they have received the written approval of all committee members, successfully defended their dissertation by Commencement day, and any necessary revisions to finalize the dissertation are minor and will be completed by May 31. The Associate Provost for Graduate Studies shall make final decisions regarding doctoral candidates’ eligibility to participate in commencement ceremonies.
- Law students may participate in the Spring commencement ceremony only if they (a) need nine or fewer credits to complete all degree requirements; (b) are registered by commencement day for summer term courses that would satisfy their remaining credits; and (c) are expected to complete any other graduation requirements by the end of the summer term. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall make the final eligibility decision for law students’ eligibility to participate in commencement ceremonies.