

Participation in Commencement Activities
March 27, 2006
Council of Deans

Current Policy as listed in Catalog

Students graduating during the spring semester, Maymester, and summer semester may participate in the spring ceremony. Students graduating during the fall semester will participate in the December ceremony.

Proposed Policy

Effective for Spring 2008, in order to participate in Spring Commencement, students must complete all degree requirements. The only exceptions to this rule will be those degree programs that require a final capstone experience that is scheduled in the summer term. Students must apply for Spring Commencement by September 1. By February 1, a final degree audit will be conducted to ensure that students who have applied for graduation have enrolled in their final course requirements. Any students who are not on track for completion in the spring term will be informed that they will not be allowed to participate in Spring Commencement.

Note: Students who complete their degree requirements in August or December will have this noted on their academic transcript and a diploma will be issued by the Registrar's Office. They may elect to participate in Commencement activities in the following spring.

Rationale

Over the years, despite the stated policy for participation in commencement, a significant number of students who walked in the spring ceremonies did not complete their requirements in the subsequent summer term. Some students who participate in Commencement fail to complete final requirements and thus remain on our books as students who have not graduated. There is no process in place to follow up on students who are close to but have not completed all requirements. The proposed policy will provide a powerful motivation for students to graduate "on time." It will also make the commencement ceremony more meaningful knowing that all the students participating are indeed set to graduate.