



**Campus Administrative Policy**

**Policy Title: Student Participation in Commencement Ceremonies**

Policy Number: 7026 Functional Area: **Student Affairs**

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Effective: July 1, 2011  
Date Last Amended/Reviewed: July 1, 2011  
Date Scheduled for Review: July 1, 2018  
Supersedes: Student Participation in Commencement Ceremonies (July 6, 2004)

Approved by: Roderick Nairn  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Prepared by: Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Reviewing Office: Office of Academic and Student Affairs  
Responsible Officer: Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Applies to: University of Colorado Denver  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

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**A. INTRODUCTION**

The University of Colorado Denver and University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus confers degrees several times a year and holds at least one Commencement ceremony a year. Commencement ceremonies are opportunities for students and their families to celebrate the students’ accomplishments. The conferring of degrees (graduation) occurs when all degree requirements have been completed and verified. Commencement and graduation are not synonymous.

**B. POLICY STATEMENT**

Normally, student participation in Commencement ceremonies is reserved for students who have successfully completed all degree requirements. For doctoral students, successfully completing degree requirements includes successfully passing comprehensive examinations and successfully defending the dissertation. However, at the

discretion of the dean, a student may participate in the Commencement ceremony if the student is expected to complete all degree requirements prior to the next Commencement ceremony. In the case of students in master's and doctoral programs within the Graduate School, the Graduate Dean, in consultation with the appropriate college/school dean, determines exceptions to this policy.

## Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:  
July 6, 2004: Adopted  
July 1, 2011: Updated and reinstated by the Provost  
April 19, 2019: Modified
2. History:  
April 19, 2019: Modified to reflect a Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize Campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statement organized around the several operational divisions of the university. Article links, University branding, and formatting updated by the Provost's office.
3. Initial Policy Effective Date: July 6, 2004
4. Cross References/Appendix: N/A