



**Campus Administrative Policy**

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

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

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Effective: March 1, 2020  
Date Last Amended/Reviewed: March 1, 2020  
Date Scheduled for Review: July 1, 2027  
Supersedes: Student Participation in Commencement Ceremonies  
(July 1, 2011)

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Prepared by: Provost’s Office  
Reviewing Office: Provost Office  
Responsible Officer: Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic  
and Student Affairs

Applies to: CU Denver  
CU Anschutz

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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**

Participation in commencement ceremony does not constitute conferral of a degree, nor does it obligate the university to award the degree before all requirements have been met.

Student participation in Commencement ceremonies is reserved for students who have successfully completed all degree requirements. Students can participate in any

commencement ceremony following the completion of their degree requirements. For doctoral students, successfully completing degree requirements includes successfully passing comprehensive examinations and successfully defending the dissertation.

### **C. EXCEPTIONS**

1. 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.
2. For graduate programs not within the graduate school, the dean of the college/school within which the program resides can approve an exception to this policy.
3. For undergraduate degree programs, the dean of the college/school within which the program resides can approve an exception to this policy.
4. International students who will meet all graduation requirements within one semester, can participate in commencement if they cannot participate in the following ceremony due to being out of the country. The dean of the appropriate college/school, in consultation with the director of the Office of International Affairs, can approve an exception 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  
March 1, 2020: Revised
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.  
March 1, 2020: Minor clarifications. Exceptions to this policy clarified to include exceptions for international students.
3. Initial Policy Effective Date: July 6, 2004
4. Cross References/Appendix: N/A