



# University Policy: Student Participation in Commencement Ceremonies

**Policy Category:** Academic

**Subject:** May or December Commencement Ceremony Participation

**Office Responsible for Review of this Policy:** The Office of the Provost

**Procedures:** Application for Graduation

**Related University Policies:** Academic Regulations

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## I. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all students who have completed or are in the process of completing their degree requirements at the time of formal commencement ceremony.

## II. POLICY STATEMENT

### Eligibility to Walk at Commencement

Participation in a commencement ceremony does not itself constitute conferral of a degree, nor does it imply an obligation on the part of the university to award the degree before all requirements have been met and certified.

Undergraduate degree students who have met all university requirements (General Education, Mathematics and College Writing) for their degree, but have not completed up to two courses (up to a maximum of 8 credit hours) may participate in commencement activities if they have a current GPA of 2.0 or above; have at least 112 credit hours (hours earned plus current registered hours); and have enrolled in the summer following May commencement for the course(s) needed to complete their May degree requirements or have enrolled in the spring following December commencement for the course(s) needed to complete their December degree requirements.

Master's degree students who have met all other university requirements, including the thesis (if required) for their degree, but lack one course (3 credit hours maximum) may participate in commencement activities if they have a current GPA of 3.0 or above, and have enrolled in the summer following May commencement for the course needed to complete their degree requirements or have enrolled in the spring following December commencement for the course needed to complete their December degree requirements.

In order to participate in commencement, doctoral students must complete all degree and university requirements, including receipt of the completed dissertation by the Office of the University Registrar. In addition to dissertation completion, for those with a year-long required professional internship, at least two-thirds of the internship must be satisfactorily completed by the relevant commencement date to participate in commencement ceremonies.

Regardless of the number of credit hours needed to finish their program at AU, international student's enrolled at AU as part of a dual degree or joint degree program under a Memorandum of Agreement with another institution may participate in the commencement ceremonies prior to returning to their home institution to complete their degree requirements.

### **III. PROCEDURES**

Candidates for degrees must file an Application for Graduation Form with the Office of the University Registrar during the period of registration for the last expected term of study.

The university confers degrees and issues diplomas at the end of the fall, spring, and summer terms. A formal commencement ceremony is held in December at the end of the fall semester and in May at the end of the spring semester. Students who earned their degree during the previous summer are recognized in the fall ceremony. Diplomas are released after all degree requirements have been certified by the Registrar.

### **V. EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This Policy is effective February 2017.

This policy needs to be signed by the appropriate officer (listed below before it is considered approved.

### **VI. SIGNATURE, TITLE, AND DATE OF APPROVAL**

**This document was approved and signed by:**

**Scott Bass**  
**Provost**

**On January 27, 2017**