

Virtual Commencement 2020 – FAQ

Virtual Commencement 2020 is a virtual commencement experience designed for graduating students that includes two main components; a unique virtual ceremony by college, graduate program or professional school as well as a virtual Yearbook.

Virtual commencement ceremonies will be available online at commencement.ucsd.edu on June 13th at 9:00am. Students, faculty, staff, and guests are invited to attend and watch the ceremony(s) of their choice. These ceremonies will acknowledge registered graduates by preferred name, major, minor, awards, and enrolled College/Division/School and include other traditional elements such as addresses from the Chancellor, Provosts, and Deans, students, a keynote speaker, and more.

Virtual Yearbook is a new UC San Diego private social networking site that will make it easy for registered graduates to connect with other graduates. Registered graduates can post comments, upload a photo of themselves, chat live, and watch commencement ceremony streams from the virtual Yearbook.

FAQ

1. How do students participate in Virtual Commencement 2020? What does it mean to “participate”?

Students can go to commencement.ucsd.edu to register by May 26 and acknowledge that their “preferred name, major, minor, awards, and enrolled College/Division/School will be used to showcase my achievement both online during the virtual commencement and in a virtual Yearbook profile page that can be edited within that site once launched in early June”.

2. How are students eligible to participate in Virtual Commencement 2020?

Undergraduate students must meet the standard commencement participation requirement of having at least 135 units completed by the beginning of spring quarter. Graduate students should check with their program advisors to determine commencement participation and eligibility.

3. What if an undergraduate student does not have 135 units by the beginning of spring quarter and wants to participate in commencement?

It is at the College’s discretion if unit exceptions are supported. Not all Colleges grant unit exceptions. Unit exceptions can be accommodated by the commencement team up until **May 22**.

- To request an exception approval, the student needs to contact their College Academic Advising department. If granted, either the student or Academic Advising department contacts commencement@ucsd.edu with proof of approval in writing; such as a screen shot, official document on letterhead, or email thread, in addition to the student name, email, and PID#.
- Once the request has been received, the commencement team will email the student a link to register online and copy the person who granted the approval. It will be the student’s responsibility to complete the online registration process after they receive the link. Once their registration has been confirmed, a receipt will be sent to the student’s email provided during the registration process.

4. Do students need registration tickets to attend Virtual Commencement 2020?

No, there are no tickets issued or required to watch commencement ceremonies online.

5. Is there a registration fee?

No, there is not a registration fee.

6. Is there a registration deadline?

- Yes, May 26 is the deadline to register if they want their preferred name, major, minor, awards, and enrolled College/Division/School will be used to showcase their achievement both online during the virtual commencement and in a virtual Yearbook profile page that can be edited within that site once launched in early June.
- They will also receive a commencement keepsake by June 13 if they register by the deadline.

7. A student registers after the May 26 deadline, can they still participate?

- Yes, students can still watch their virtual college commencement however their name, major, minor, awards, and enrolled College/Division/School will NOT be included online during the virtual commencement nor will they be included in the virtual Yearbook.
- Students will still receive a commencement keepsake however it will be delivered after June 13.

8. Can a student modify, change or cancel their registration after they have already registered?

- Modifications or corrections are only accepted by May 22 to preferred name, PID, College, Graduate Division, or Professional School, current email, current address, and acknowledgements.
- Modifications or corrections to permanent address and permanent email will be accepted if submitted by June 13.
- Cancellations will be accepted by May 22.
- Students can contact commencement@ucsd.edu to request such modification, corrections, or cancellations.

9. What if a student does not register at all for virtual commencement?

- Students can still watch their virtual college commencement however their name, major, minor, awards, and enrolled College/Division/School will NOT be included online during the virtual commencement nor will they be included in the virtual Yearbook profile.
- They will not receive a commencement keepsake.
- They may not receive important updates regarding postponement commencement ceremonies.

10. What is the commencement keepsake?

- During the registration process students will need to acknowledge that they would like to receive the keepsake in order to receive it.
- Cap, UC San Diego commemorative tassel, and a diploma cover with custom UC San Diego College, professional school, or Graduate Division logo.
- Students will receive the keepsake at their current address by June 13 if they register by the May 26 deadline.
- If they register after the May 26 deadline they will receive the keepsake after June 13.

11. What name will be displayed online during virtual ceremonies and in the virtual Yearbook?

- Preferred names will be displayed for both.
- If a student's legal name and preferred name are the same, they do not need to do anything; the legal name will be used unless a preferred name is submitted.
- Note that the preferred name only changes the first or middle name, not the last name.
- More information here: [Preferred name and Personal Pronouns](#).

12. What if a student submitted a preferred name and wishes to revert back to their legal name for commencement?

They may remove their preferred name (first and middle) using the [Social Identities Tool](#) by May 26.

13. A student wants to change their legal/official name (first, middle, or last); what do they need to do and by when?

The student needs to contact the Office of the Registrar's Academic Records department immediately to request an official name change. [Request for Change or Correction of Name form](#) and more information can be found here: <https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/registrar/name-change.html>. Official name changes need to be requested and completed by Academic Records by May 18 for virtual commencement and virtual Yearbook. Academic Records is able to update a student's name change/update in ISES within 5 to 7 business days after receiving the paperwork. Once the official name is updated, it immediately refreshes the commencement registration system. Note that official name changes are intended for LAST name changes. A student cannot change their last name with the [Social Identities Tool](#).

14. How do students request their name listed in the College commencement booklet?

They do not. Commencement booklets are not offered by the University as part of the virtual commencement experience. They are intended for in-person commencement programs.

15. Why does the virtual commencement registration ask for a student's current email and current address?

- Current address is so the University can send a commencement keepsake.
- Current email is so the University can send important virtual commencement related communications prior to June 13. This is their UC San Diego email address.

16. Why does the virtual commencement registration ask for a student's permanent email and permanent address?

- Permanent address is so the University can have the option of sending a keepsake after June 13.
- Permanent email is so the University can send important in-person commencement related communications as they pertain to postponement ceremonies after June 13.

17. Does the virtual commencement or the virtual Yearbook serve as a proof of graduation or proof that a student graduated with honors?

- No, neither virtual commencement nor the virtual Yearbook serve as a document of record or as proof of graduation. The final degree will be awarded on the basis of all completed course work and university requirements.
- Candidates for Latin Honors will be determined by graded units and grade point average at the time of filing. Final honors will be awarded on the basis of all completed courses and grades.

18. When will graduates receive their diploma?

- Diplomas are available 3-6 months after the end of the quarter in which the student graduates. Undergraduate and Graduate diplomas are mailed directly to the permanent mailing address on record in TritonLink. Diplomas will bear the student's official name exactly as stated on their UC San Diego academic record.
- Students will receive a UC San Diego diploma upon successful completion of the university and degree requirements, as long as a [Degree and Diploma Application \(DDA\)](#) was properly submitted to their college before the end of their final quarter.
- Note: Multiple degrees are listed on one diploma. Minors are not listed on diplomas.
- If a diploma is not received by the end of the time allowed, contact Academic Records, at (858) 534-3144.

19. Can students participate in more than one College ceremony?

Students will only be able to register for their home virtual college commencement ceremony. This is where they will be acknowledged with their name included in a list of graduates, however they will have access to other college ceremonies to watch online at commencement.ucsd.edu.

20. What happens if a student submits an exception request to participate in a virtual college ceremony other than their home college ceremony?

- They do not need to request an exception. Virtual commencement ceremonies will be available for any student to view as they please.

21. What do participating students need to do to watch their college's virtual ceremony?

- They can log-in to their virtual Yearbook profile to watch their virtual college ceremony.
- Or, they can go to commencement.ucsd.edu to watch any of the virtual ceremonies.

22. Do students need to check-in for virtual ceremonies?

No check-in is required.

23. Do guests need to check-in for virtual ceremonies?

No check-in is required for guests, faculty, and staff. They go to commencement.ucsd.edu to watch virtual ceremonies.

24. Will closed captioning be available?

Yes, closed captioning will be available in English, Spanish, and Mandarin.

25. Are virtual ceremonies mandatory?

While participation is voluntary, attendance is encouraged for eligible students to register; to participate in university tradition and celebrate with their College community.

26. How long will virtual ceremonies be in duration?

Ceremonies are scheduled for 30-35 minutes on Saturday, June 13 at 9:00 a.m.

27. What happens if a student registered for virtual commencement but decided not to graduate this year?

They should email commencement@ucsd.edu to cancel their registration.

28. When will students gain access to the virtual Yearbook?

If a student registered by the May 26 deadline, they will receive log-in instructions to gain access to their virtual Yearbook in early June to begin optimizing their virtual Yearbook experience.

POSTPONED CEREMONIES

29. Have dates been set for postponed in-person ceremonies?

No. Information about future postponed ceremonies, registration, and regalia will be sent to students' current and permanent email addresses once details have been confirmed.

REGALIA/BOOKSTORE

30. Is regalia required for virtual commencement ceremonies?

No. Caps and UC San Diego commemorative tassels will be mailed to students' current addresses as a commencement keepsake but regalia is not required for virtual ceremonies.

31. If a student wants to purchase regalia and have it delivered by Virtual Commencement 2020 on June 13.

Where can they purchase it and when do they need to order it by?

Place an order by May 15 at <https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1004688/University-of-California-San-Diego/>.

32. If a student still wants to purchase regalia (cap, gown, stole, and tassel) for graduation photos. Where can they purchase it?

Visit <https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1004688/University-of-California-San-Diego/>.

33. If a student had previously purchased regalia and still wants it, will it be sent to them?

- No. Since campus will be providing each registered graduate with a complimentary cap and commemorative tassel upon registration for the virtual ceremony, the Bookstore will automatically cancel and refund all pre-orders for Grad Pack bundles to the original method of payment.
- If they would like to place a new order for regalia, visit <https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1004688/University-of-California-San-Diego/>.

34. If a student had previously purchased cap and gown and would like to cancel and receive a refund. What do they need to do?

They do not need to do anything. The Bookstore will automatically cancel and refund all pre-orders for Grad Pack bundles to the original method of payment.

35. Where can family and friends purchase graduation gifts for their graduate?

To purchase graduation gifts, please visit <https://ucsandiegobookstore.com/t-gradcentral.aspx>.

KEY DATES

- May 1 – June 13 – Commencement announcements and promotions
- May 22 – Deadline for registration modifications, corrections, and cancellations.
- May 26 – Deadline to register for virtual commencement and virtual Yearbook. June 1 – Year Book available for registered students to optimize (add photos, messages, etc.).
- June 13 – Virtual Commencement 2020 at 9:00am.