



POLICY ON PARTICIPATION IN COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES IN THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND PRACTICE

Dated: November 19, 2019

Supersedes: *Policy on Participation in Commencement Exercises in the School of Health Sciences and Practice* dated May 15, 2015

I. PURPOSE

Establish a process to accommodate students who wish to participate in the May Commencement but who will complete degree requirements in August of the same year.

II. POLICY

Any student in good academic standing seeking to participate in the May commencement ceremonies may request "Permission to Walk" prior to completion of all academic or clinical (SLP or DPT) requirements.

III. SCOPE

Applies to all SHSP students.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Students in the Department of Public Health who have not satisfied all of the requirements for graduation may participate in the graduation ceremony based on the following:
1. DrPH, MPH, or MS Biostatistics dissertation/thesis students who have successfully defended, but whose document requires edits/revision; or
 2. Students who are in good academic standing and have completed all core and concentration requirements, including CHSM 7089 Applied Practicum Experience; but the student has only to pass the comprehensive examination during the summer. For these students, the graduation program will clearly state "Anticipated August Graduate;"
 3. Final decision is at the discretion of the chair and the division director.
 4. Students will not receive their diploma until they pass the comprehensive exam.
- B. Students in the Departments of Physical Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology may participate if it can be verified that he/she lacks no more than 12 weeks of additional work on clinical practicum with plans in place to complete all requirements no later than the end of August following the May commencement.

- C. Should a student fail to meet the completion of all outstanding requirements as noted above, the student's degree will be conferred as of the next available date for his/her program, once requirements are complete.
- D. Students are allowed to walk only once. If a student walks Spring 2020 for tentative August graduation, and they fail the comprehensive exam during the summer, they will not graduate in August 2020. If they pass the comprehensive exam by December 2020, they will graduate by December 2020. However, they will not be allowed to walk in Spring 2021.
- E. Request for "Permission to Walk" with the graduation class must be approved by the student's department chair and submitted to the Vice Dean by March 31 of the student's last year of study. A list of these students will be provided to the Registrar's Office by March 31.
- F. When "Permission to Walk" is granted, the student will not receive a diploma at commencement. Further, the student's name in the commencement booklet will be annotated with a footnote stating "Anticipated August [commencement year] Graduate" or "Anticipated May [commencement year] Graduate".
- G. The Registrar's Office will automatically move the student's graduation application forward to the next conferral date. Prior to that date, the Program Director should formally notify the Registrar's Office that the student has satisfied all degree requirements and that the degree may be awarded.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy shall be effective immediately.

VI. POLICY MANAGEMENT

Responsible Executive: Dean, School of Health Sciences and Practice

Responsible Officer: Vice Dean, School of Health Sciences and Practice

Responsible Office: School of Health Sciences and Practice