

Commencement 2009

Information Meetings

Graduation candidates who plan to participate in the commencement ceremonies are advised to attend one of these informational sessions~

Tuesday, April 28 12:00 – 1:00 PM ARTS 240

Thursday, April 30 12:00 – 1:00 PM ARTS 240

INFORMATION FOR GRADUATION CANDIDATES FOR

FALL 2008, SPRING 2008 AND SUMMER 2009

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2009

Location: Grandstand at the Del Mar Fairgrounds

Time: Ceremony 1 9:00 AM

 Ceremony 3:00 PM

Check-in time for graduation candidates: Ceremony 1 8:00 AM

 Ceremony 2 2:00 PM

Ceremonies will begin promptly at 9:00 am and 3:00 pm – DON'T BE LATE!

Keep in mind that traffic is always heavy on Interstate 5 – Please allow adequate time for travel and parking! Parking lots open at 6:30AM. Plan to arrive at least one hour before the ceremony to allow for distribution of name cards and Academic Honors cords at the check-in area. Wear your cap and gown with tassel hanging on the right side of the cap.

Place

Commencement ceremonies will be held at the Grandstand of the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The line-up area for the ceremony will be in the Paddock Green. To avoid congestion, only participants will be allowed in the line-up area.

Family and Friends

Family and friends will enter the Grandstand through the Plaza de Mexico. There is unlimited guest seating (tickets are not required). **Ask your guests to arrive early since “saved” seats will be released 10 minutes before the start of the ceremony.** Most of the guest seats in the Grandstand are under cover, but the weather in May is unpredictable. Please check the weather for that day and dress appropriately. The ceremony is expected to run approximately 2.5 to 3 hours.

Access and Parking

From Interstate 5 take the Via De La Valle exit west and turn south unto Jimmy Durante Blvd. The entrance to the parking lots will be on your right. Parking at the Del Mar Fairgrounds is \$9.00 per automobile. Persons with disabled parking DMV placards may park in the disabled parking slots at the front of the parking lot. Courtesy shuttle service will be provided from the parking lots to the entrance of La Plaza de Mexico.

Services for Persons with Disabilities

The Del Mar Fairgrounds will be providing wheelchair accessible trams to get individuals to and from the parking lots. There is wheelchair accessible seating dispersed throughout the Grand Stands for spectators and a platform lift to provide access to the Commencement Stage for graduates with mobility impairments. Please keep in mind that there will be no wheelchairs or motorized scooters available at the Del Mar Fairgrounds for individual use. Sign language interpreters will be provided on stage at both Commencement ceremonies. Spectators who are Deaf are strongly encouraged to contact Michelle Saavedra in Disabled Student Services by email at misaaved@csusm.edu to discuss seating needs. All questions regarding accessibility should be addressed to Disabled Student Services. They can be reached at (760) 750-4905.

Photographs

Cal Candid's Grad Photos will be taking professional photos at the commencement ceremonies. Proofs will be available online within 24-36 hours of the ceremony. Within two weeks of commencement, you will receive a full-color proof and an order form from Cal Candid's Grad Photos. You will have the option of ordering from a variety of enlargement packages, however, there is no obligation to purchase. For more information or questions visit www.gradphotos.com , info@gradphotos.com , (866) 882-2897.

Note that portrait photography will also be available in the Mission Tower before and after each ceremony.

Regalia

All graduation candidates, faculty and ceremony participants are required to wear traditional academic regalia. The ceremony will be outdoors and graduate and faculty seating will be exposed to the sun and wind. Please wear appropriate clothing under your gown. We recommend bringing a small bottle of water with you.

There will be no security or place to leave items once the processional starts. You should make arrangements for someone to be responsible for your valuables during the ceremony. Bring only your cap and gown for line-up. Check your cap, tassel and gown before arriving at the site. Be sure to bring any pins or clips you may need to anchor your cap- often there is a strong breeze at the ceremony site. The ceremony stage is very high and graduates will access it via open steps. Please exercise caution when selecting footwear –high heels are not recommended.

Line up and Processional

University Faculty and Staff will assist you in the line-up area on the Paddock Green

- 1) Check in tables will be located at the gates of the Paddock Green and will be marked alphabetically. Go to the appropriate table to pick up your name card, which will be used to read your name as you walk across the stage. If it will assist the reader in the pronunciation of your name, please write a phonetic spelling above the printed label. DO NOT add any other comments. Only the following will be read as you walk across the stage: Name, Major, and Academic Honors (if applicable).
- 2) Provide the information requested on the back of the name card. The photographer will use this information to identify you as you walk across the stage. The tear off stub contains a unique password – keep it in a safe place. You will use this password to access the graduation photo website. If you lose the stub, contact California Candida Graduation Photography at (866)882-2897, www.gradphotos.com.
- 3) Academic Honors candidates (indicated on name cards – see Graduation with Honors in the General Catalog) should proceed to the Honors Table to receive their honors cord. If you are a member of an honor society, please contact your organization for information about their specific cord or sash.
- 4) Go to the line-up area in the Paddock Green. University Staff will assist you with the line-up order.
- 5) Processional and seating: Faculty marshals will lead you in the procession and guide you to your seat.

Individual Recognition on Stage

You will proceed to the stage row by row; Faculty marshals and staff will assist you. As you proceed to the stage, you will hand your name card to the reader. When your name is read, you will cross the stage and receive a diploma cover. Your photograph will be taken as you are congratulated by President Haynes. You will then return to your seat.

Note: diplomas are issued after all academic requirements are completed and the degree has been awarded. Diplomas are mailed to the address indicated on MyCSUSM in your Student Service Center under Personal Information – Contact Information. Use the blue hyperlink to make changes to your address information.

Recessional

At the end of the ceremony, the platform party will lead the recessional out of the ceremony site along the route you entered. The faculty will form the traditional honor guard to recognize the graduates as they leave the ceremony.

Graduates are expected to remain seated until all graduates have been recognized and the ceremony has ended.

Commencement etiquette and Common Courtesy

The conferring of an academic degree is a tradition that dates back to the 12th century and is regarded as an important rite of passage for students and their families. While commencement is a time for celebration, please remember this long and respected tradition and approach the ceremony with the proper decorum and respect.

Children are not permitted in the graduate seating area or on stage. Alcohol or other inappropriate items are not allowed at the event and will be confiscated. Please leave your pets at home and refrain from using cell phones during the ceremony (turn them off). Graduates will not be permitted to leave the ceremony early, so please use the restroom before the program begins.

Questions about the ceremonies may be directed to 769 750-4406. For a breakdown of ceremonies by major, please visit our website at www.csusm.edu/commencement