

Convocation FAQ 2020

updated as of 4/23/20

Northwestern University Commencement Ceremony

- **Are Commencement and Convocation the same event?**
Commencement is a University-wide ceremony for all graduates of Northwestern University and Convocation is a ceremony held by each individual school of Northwestern University.
- **Can I attend both Commencement and Convocation?**
Yes, graduates can elect to attend either or both events. You do not have to attend Commencement to be allowed participation at Convocation or vice versa.
- **Has Commencement been canceled due to COVID-19?**
Northwestern University will conduct commencement and confer degrees in a virtual format. For additional details, please visit <https://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/ceremonies-and-events/commencement.html>
- **What is the date of Northwestern University Commencement Ceremony?**
June 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

School of Professional Studies Convocation Ceremony

- **Has Convocation been canceled due to COVID-19?**
Due to unprecedented events, this year's ceremony will be fully virtual.
- **What is the date for the Convocation?**
SPS Convocation will be on June 19, 2020, at noon Central Time, following the University's virtual Commencement. The Convocation ceremony will be available for an extended period of time after June 19, 2020.
- **Who is eligible to participate in Convocation and Commencement?**
Undergraduate and graduate students who complete their degree in the summer and fall 2019, winter and spring 2020 quarters may participate.
- **Are students who complete their degree in summer 2020 eligible to participate in Convocation and Commencement?**
Students who complete their degree in summer 2020 are eligible to participate in 2020 Convocation provided they meet with their adviser to finalize a course plan and submit the appropriate form.

Convocation Virtual Ceremony

- **How will I be acknowledged during the ceremony?**
Each graduate will be recognized through a custom slide complete with name and degree announcement. Graduates can submit a photo and a personal message for their slide content.
Note: The name listed as the preferred name in CAESAR will be used for the virtual ceremony.
- **Can I share my personal slide on social media?**
Yes. You will receive a complimentary digital package that is easy to download and share on

social media. This will include your custom slide with name and degree announcement as well as a 12-second personal video you can submit to thank your family, friends, and faculty who have helped you on your journey.

- **Will there be a Convocation program?**

Yes, electronic programs will be available to download on the Convocation website.

- **Should I order regalia for the virtual ceremony?**

In lieu of regalia, this year's virtual platform features a SnapChat lens with cap and gown for your personal video. The Commencement office will provide more information in an upcoming email for students who wish to still order regalia.

Note: We cannot guarantee that regalia will arrive before your photo submission due date of May 29, 2020.

- **Will the virtual Convocation include captions for deaf or hard of hearing people?**

All of the elements of the virtual ceremony will be captioned or have a text display.

- **Will honors be acknowledged during the ceremony?**

All honors granted by June 1, 2020, will be acknowledged on the graduates' personal slide.

Questions about Diplomas

- **How will I receive my diploma?**

Participation at Convocation is not required to receive your diploma. Diplomas are mailed to the graduate at the address they list on the Application for Degree or Program Completion Form after the quarter they graduate. Summer '19, Fall '19, and Winter '20 graduates should have already received their diplomas. If you did not please contact onlinereg@northwestern.edu.

Note: Due to office closures, Spring '20 and Summer '20 graduates may see a delay in shipment of their diplomas.

Commencement Merchandise

- **How do I order announcements, thank-you notes, and memorabilia?**

Graduates will receive a link to your complimentary video package that includes your custom slide with name and degree announcement, as well as a 12-second personal video with cap and gown Snapchat lens and SPS background. The video package can be downloaded and shared via social media.

The [Northwestern University Bookstore](#) features school spirit merchandise, books, and other gift items. For more information, call 847-491-3990.

The [Northwestern University Alumni Association](#) website offers special access to high-quality products and class rings.