

# Exemption Request to Participate in Commencement | Master's Degrees

**Master's degree candidates who will complete their degree requirements by July 2024 or August of 2024 *may* be permitted to participate in the May 2024 ceremony only if they can demonstrate the following:**

1. Economic or physical hardship prohibiting their participation in the September 2024 Virtual Ceremony or the May 2025 In-Person Ceremony, and
2. The support of their degree program chair / director.

**Before submitting an [Exemption Request to Participate](#), please note:**

- Travel uncertainties, financial uncertainties, location/living uncertainties, and relocation to another region/part of the country do not qualify as hardships;
- Support from a candidate's program director does not have to be in writing; applicants will attest to verbal support from their director;
- The burden of proof of economic or physical hardship falls on the Masters candidate submitting the Petition. Supporting documentation *can* improve the likelihood of approval. Supporting documentation can include, but is not limited to:
  - Student visa paperwork (or confirmation of this from the Center for Global Education);
  - Proof of military deployment;
  - Documentation of a medical condition that would prohibit participation in a September virtual ceremony or a May on-ground ceremony.

**Master's candidates may submit an [Exemption Request to Participate](#) that outlines:**

- The anticipated date of degree completion;
- The actions the student will take to successfully complete their degree requirements;
- The nature of the hardship prohibiting them from participating in the September 2024 virtual or May 2024 (in-person) Commencement ceremonies;
- The support (verbal or written) of their program director.

**July or August 2024 Master's degree candidates requesting to participate in the May 2024 Commencement ceremony must submit an [Exemption Request to Participate](#) by April 1, 2024.** Petitions received after April 1 will not be considered. Students will be notified by April 17, 2024 if their request has been granted.

**July and August Master's degree candidates who are approved to participate in the May 2024 Commencement ceremony will adhere to the policy below:**

- Degree candidates will not receive a diploma until all degree requirements are satisfied, including credits;
  - Degree candidates will have a notation next to their names in the May 2024 Commencement program, indicating that their studies are not yet complete;
  - Degree candidates will be held responsible for communicating with the Office of the Registrar and their program chair/director before June 30 about the completion of their degree. In addition, degree candidates are responsible for verifying that they are included on the July or August graduation list.
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**PLEASE NOTE: Doctoral degree candidates are not eligible to submit an Exemption Request to Participate in Commencement.** Doctoral candidates who complete all degree requirements (including successful defense of a dissertation/other doctoral project and its formal acceptance by their Program) in August, October, and January will be invited to participate in the **NEXT May** Commencement ceremony that follows their degree completion.

Students finishing their degree requirements in May 2024 **SHOULD NOT** submit the Petition to Participate form! Students finishing by May will automatically be invited to Commencement and will receive a RSVP invitation survey with details about Commencement via email in April.