

Department of STS/Public Policy
Public Policy Program

Policy on Participation in Graduation Ceremonies

REVISED October 1, 2009

In general, students will be expected to complete all graduation requirements prior to the May graduation ceremony. In limited circumstances, students who have not yet completed their degree options may request permission to participate in graduation ceremonies. For those students, permission to participate in graduation must be granted in writing by the Department Chair or program coordinator, subject to the following requirements:

FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

- (1) All BS students must have submitted their final Senior Project no later than the end of the Spring quarter of the academic year in which graduation is anticipated.
- (2) If a student plans to complete course work during the summer following graduation or in the Fall quarter, the student must be registered for classes no later than the last day of classes of the Spring quarter of the academic year in which graduation is anticipated.

FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

- (1) All MS candidates must have completed all required coursework by the end of the Spring quarter of the academic year in which graduation is anticipated.
- (2) All MS students must have defended their thesis the last day of classes of the Spring quarter of the academic year in which graduation is anticipated.

FOR ALL STUDENTS:

A student who requests approval to participate in graduation ceremonies prior to completion of degree requirements must be clear of academic probation/suspension at the time of participation in those ceremonies. Determination for academic probation/suspension is based on the student's GPA for the quarter in which the ceremony takes place. (For example, a request to walk in May could be affected by Spring Quarter grades).

The Program reserves the right to acquire grades from faculty teaching courses for the said student in order to determine whether academic probation/suspension is likely.

If, under the determination made as described above, the student will be placed on academic probation/suspension, the Program will notify that student at least 48 hours before the COLA graduation ceremony commences. If a student disagrees with the Program decision, they will have a right to contest that decision via a letter to the Program Chair within 24 hours of receipt of the decision.