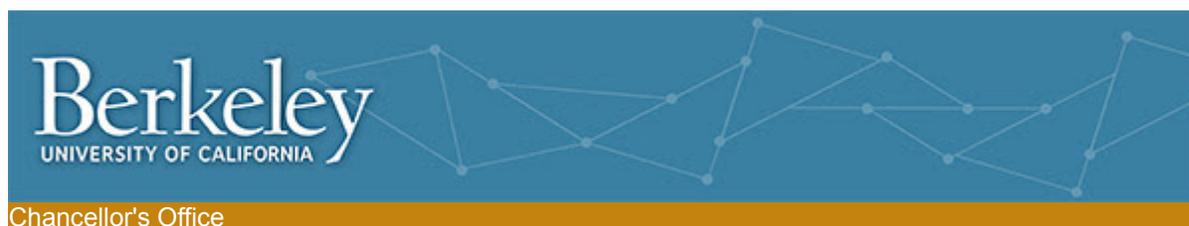

May 2021 commencement plans CONFIRMED

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chancellor Carol Christ** <events1@our.berkeley.edu>

Date: Mon, Mar 29, 2021 at 10:00 AM

Subject: May 2021 commencement plans CONFIRMED



Dear Students of the Class of 2021,

Your last three semesters at Cal have been anything but typical — and I share your frustration that graduating from college isn't following the traditional script. Yet I also want to reflect back what I see: a class that has embraced the constant unknown with determination, open-mindedness, creativity, and kindness toward each other. These skills will serve you as powerfully as your Berkeley degree.

I would like to share the following plans for May 2021 commencement, which apply to all undergraduate and graduate students graduating in fall 2020, spring 2021, and summer 2021.

- **Virtual campuswide commencement** — At 9 a.m. on May 15, 2021, all undergraduate and graduate students will be invited to join a virtual ceremony that will include speeches and the conferring of degrees. You will be able to share this online occasion with your family and friends.
- **In-person, student-only procession** — To honor a cherished part of graduation, we will hold an in-person, student-only procession at the Greek Theatre from May 16-20, 2021. Only a certain number of graduates will be permitted to cross the stage per hour to maintain safety, which is why we are allotting five days so that everyone has the chance to participate. You will be able to schedule your walkthrough when it works for you and can coordinate with your friends to sign up for the same time. Please note that no guests, including family, will be allowed in the theater or on campus, but the procession will be live streamed.
- **Virtual department graduations (organized by departments)** — Many schools, colleges, departments, and student organizations will hold their own virtual ceremonies or receptions in May. Check with your group for details.

The number one question I hear is, “Why can’t we celebrate in person?” As a public university, we must adhere to several public health guidelines at the local, state, and national level. While the vaccine

is becoming more available and circumstances may improve by May, it takes months to plan a ceremony of this magnitude for some 60,000 visitors from around the world. We cannot predict what the guidelines will recommend for that time, yet we are committed to celebrating your achievement in as safe, equitable, and shareable a way as possible. We believe the virtual commencement and in-person, student-only procession are the best solutions.

The second question I hear most is, “Can I bring guests?” As you may know, the campus is currently closed to the public to comply with state orders, and we cannot predict when that order will be lifted. The opportunities to gather, either on or off campus, are both limited and discouraged. I encourage you instead to plan a small celebration with your loved ones as your local guidelines allow.

We will share further details for each option as they are confirmed. Look for an email in early April inviting you to register for the virtual campuswide commencement, your virtual department graduation, and the in-person procession. Thank you for your flexibility and patience, and I wish you success in these final weeks.

Visit commencement.berkeley.edu for the latest updates, or contact events1@berkeley.edu or 888.UNIV.CAL (888.864.8225) if you have any questions.

Fiat Lux,

Carol Christ
Chancellor

This message has been sent to all UC Berkeley students on the Fall 2020, Spring 2021 and Summer 2021 degree lists.

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

LIGHT THE WAY
THE CAMPAIGN FOR BERKELEY



Copyright © 2021 UC Regents. All rights reserved.

This email was sent by: University Development and Alumni Relations | [1995 University Avenue, Suite 401 | Berkeley, CA 94704 USA](https://www.berkeley.edu)