

January 4, 2020

Dear Illinois Family Member:

Congratulations! The Office of the Registrar indicates that based on the number of hours completed, your student may be eligible to participate in the May 2020 Commencement of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. If, for any reason, the student is not planning to graduate this spring, please disregard this letter. Materials pertaining to Commencement activities will be sent directly to the student's campus address in late February. Although full details will be available at commencement.illinois.edu, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some information.

The university-wide Commencement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, at 9:30 a.m. in Memorial Stadium. The ceremony will last approximately two hours. All guests must present an admission ticket to enter the stadium. Admission tickets will be available at the Illini Union Event Services Window after Spring Break. To provide a safe and memorable experience at our ceremonies we have instituted a clear bag policy for ceremonies held at Memorial Stadium and State Farm Center. Policy details can be found on the enclosure.

In addition to the university-wide ceremony, many individual colleges, schools, and departments host separate Convocation ceremonies. A listing of these ceremonies is enclosed for your information. Convocations are scheduled for Friday, May 15; Saturday, May 16; and Sunday, May 17. Convocations do not conflict with the university-wide Commencement ceremony, allowing students and their families and friends the opportunity to participate in all activities. Tickets and/or advance registration are required for most Convocations, and because of their popularity, some units may limit the number of guest tickets provided to each student. Students should receive information regarding Convocations directly from the sponsoring department by April 1. Graduates with disabilities who require special assistance to fully participate in Commencement activities may contact the Commencement Office at commencement@illinois.edu or 217/333-8834.

You may be interested in other events that are scheduled for Commencement Weekend. La Casa Cultural Latina, the Native American House, and the African American Cultural Program will host formal congratulatory programs. The President and Chancellor will host a reception on Saturday, May 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for all graduates and their families at the President's House following Commencement.

A cap and gown are required for participation in Commencement. Herff Jones has been contracted to provide custom rental academic attire for all graduates. The Bachelor's attire consists of a University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign blue gown with matching mortarboard, a stole of gratitude, and a tassel indicating the student's college/field of study. Students should order academic attire online at herffjones.com/illinois by Thursday, April 16. Additional ordering instructions are provided at commencement.illinois.edu. Announcements may be ordered through the Herff Jones website, the Illini Union Bookstore, or a printer of your choice.

Most area hotels begin taking reservations for Commencement Weekend very early and may already be filled. For assistance with accommodations, please visit the Champaign County Convention and Visitors Bureau at visitchampaigncounty.org.

I hope you find this information helpful in making arrangements for Commencement Weekend. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign looks forward to honoring your student.

Sincerely,



Laura Wilhelm-Barr
Senior Director of Special Events