Commencement Participation

Policy Type: Administrative
Responsible Office: Strategic Enrollment Management, Records and Registration
Initial Policy Approved: 04/24/2007
Current Revision Approved: 11/04/2014

Policy Statement and Purpose

The purpose of this policy covers students at Virginia Commonwealth University, who have submitted a degree application for spring graduation but does not meet degree requirements due to extenuating circumstances. The student’s dean may permit the student to participate in commencement exercises. Permission may be granted only when six or fewer credits are lacking for degree completion and the student demonstrates his or her intent to complete the needed credits by the end of the summer session.

MCV Campus graduation candidates for degrees to be conferred at the close of the spring semester must be present at the university wide graduation ceremony to receive their degrees. No individual may be exempt from this regulation unless excused by the dean of his or her school.

Noncompliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. VCU supports an environment free from retaliation. Retaliation against any employee who brings forth a good faith concern, asks a clarifying question, or participates in an investigation is prohibited.

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Who Should Know This Policy

Faculty, administrators, staff and students

Definitions

There are no definitions associated with this policy.

Contacts

Records and Registration officially interprets this policy. Records and Registration is responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions as required by the policy Creating and Maintaining Policies and Procedures through the appropriate governance structures. Please direct policy questions to Records and Registration.

Procedures

When such an exception is made, the dean confirms the following conditions to the student:

1. Participation in the commencement ceremonies does not mean the student has been awarded a degree.

2. The degree will be awarded in the semester or summer session in which all degree requirements have been met.

3. The exemption is made only to accommodate the student’s request and does not obligate VCU to ultimately grant a degree unless all requirements and conditions have been met.

Forms

Request to Walk form

- Contact the appropriate Undergraduate Dean’s office to obtain a form.

Related Documents

There are no related documents associated with this policy and procedures.
Revision History

This policy supersedes the following archived policies:

- Initial Approval: 04/24/2007, Commencement Participation Policy
- Revised: 11/04/2014, Commencement Participation

FAQs

1. Can I walk if I have more than six credits remaining?  
   No. University policy restricts participation in the ceremony to students with six or fewer credits.

2. How many guests can attend the ceremony?  
   For the large university ceremony, there is no restriction on the number of guests. For the smaller departmental/school ceremonies, please contact your department/school to see if there are restrictions on attendance (and if there are tickets given out ahead of time).

3. Will my name be in the commencement program?  
   No. Your name will only appear in the commencement program corresponding to the semester you complete your graduation requirements.

4. What if I've already applied to graduate in May?  
   You should contact Records and Registration to reset your electronic checkout in eServices so you can still register for additional courses, and then reapply for graduation for the semester when you will complete your graduation requirements.

5. Do I need to apply again to graduate?  
   Yes, at the beginning of the semester when you will complete your graduation requirements, you should complete the electronic checkout in eServices and reapply for graduation.