

ASHFORD

INSIDE COMMENCEMENT NEWSLETTER

8620 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123

Hello Commencement Ceremony Participants!

Congratulations on making it to commencement. You have come a long way. The Fall 2016 commencement ceremony is just around the corner!

All students, both graduate and undergraduate, will attend one ceremony which will take place at Viejas Arena located at 5500 Canyon Crest Dr in San Diego, CA on Sunday, October 2, 2016.

The day before the commencement ceremony, Saturday, October 1, you, your family, and your friends are invited to the Ashford Commencement Celebration at the Ashford University San Diego campus. This special family occasion will feature numerous fun events. The schedule of events for the entire commencement weekend is on the following pages, as well as general information for the events. We look forward to celebrating with you in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

Ashford University
Commencement Committee

Please be aware that should severe inclement weather require changes to the events, students will be notified by text message (if they signed up for the service while ordering their regalia) or by email. All information will also be posted to the Ashford University Facebook page.

Please note: By being present at the events held throughout commencement weekend, you release Ashford University from all claims regarding the use of your likeness and/or image in any print or electronic media including, but not limited to, video, television, and newspaper.

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016 CAMPUS CELEBRATION

Come enjoy a day with your fellow graduates at the Ashford Campus Celebration! For a complete list of activities, see page 3.

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CELEBRATION

Connect with other graduates and learn about regional alumni engagement opportunities. For details, see page 3.

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm @ DAVE & BUSTER'S

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Ashford University's Commencement ceremonies will take place at Viejas Arena in San Diego, CA.

8:00 am - CHECK-IN OPEN

10:00 am - ALL COLLEGES

Ticketing

Tickets will not be issued for the event. Instead, we will offer open seating. Seating at Viejas Arena will be limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Honors Regalia

Students who have not completed their courses prior to the ceremony weekend will have their degrees evaluated two (2) weeks prior to the ceremony to determine if they qualify for University honors. If qualifications are met as of that review, temporary honors will be awarded to the student and will be recognized at the ceremony. Any student who has earned honors or has been temporarily awarded honors will receive their regalia when they check in the morning of the ceremony. This group includes students who have been inducted into honor societies (Alpha Sigma Lambda, Delta Alpha Pi, Golden Key, SALUTE, Sigma Beta Delta, or Phi Theta Kappa) and/or students earning University honor designations (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude). For students who have previously been inducted into an honor society, there is no additional cost for honors regalia. Students may not join societies the day of the ceremony. Actual honors earned are listed on official University transcripts.



Honor Societies Meet & Greet

Members of Ashford Honor Societies are cordially invited to a private Meet & Greet on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm, in the Leadership Room at the San Diego campus. Come and enjoy refreshments, photography opportunities, and meet with other society members from around the world while engaging in a volunteer activity.

Members belonging to the following Honor Societies are invited:

- Alpha Sigma Lambda
- Golden Key
- SALUTE
- Phi Theta Kappa
- Sigma Beta Delta
- Delta Alpha Pi

College Meet & Greet

College of Education; College of Health, Human Services, and Science; and College of Liberal Arts

10:30 am - 11:30 am - Cafe

Forbes School of Business*

10:30 am - 11:30 am - Leadership Room

Military Appreciation Event

Military and Veteran students and their families.

9:15 am - 10:00 am - Leadership Room



Get Your Picture Taken with President Craig Swenson !

**Fountain
10:15 am - 11:15 am**



ASHFORD UNIVERSITY*

Alumni Association

Saturday, October 1 Details

The Ashford Campus Celebration will be held on Saturday, October 1, with main celebration events taking place at San Diego's Ashford University Campus located at 8620 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123. This fun-filled festival will be packed with plenty to do for the entire family including campus tours, various events, a kids' play zone, photo opportunities, a faculty meet and greet, and more!

ALL DAY EVENTS			
Event	Time	Description	Location
Refresh Coffee	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Pastries, coffee, tea, and smoothies are available for purchase.	Refresh Coffee Cart
Bookstore Sale	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Stock up on all your favorite Ashford gear!	1st floor of parking garage
Campus Tours	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Sign up for a tour of the San Diego campus. Leaving every 30 minutes, tours include workspaces, training rooms, and historical information about the campus.	Tent across from fountain
Future Achievers Fun Zone	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	This kids' area is loaded with fun things to do including bounce houses, games, craft projects, and more.	West side of the building
Career & Alumni Services	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Start your post graduation planning now. Stop and talk about your future with our Career and Alumni Services staff.	Tent across from fountain
Cap Decorating Station	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Bring your graduation cap so you can decorate and personalize it for the big event!	West lawn
Photo Station	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Make sure to remember your visit by taking a photo with fun props and your family to share on social media! #AUGrad16	West lawn
SCHEDULED EVENTS			
Military Appreciation Event	9:15 am - 10:00 am	Private Event: Military and veteran students, along with their families, are invited to meet Dr. Swenson and receive a Military Medallion.	Leadership Room
Photo with Champ	10:00 am, 11:00 am, and 12:00 pm	Come say hello to everyone's favorite St. Bernard, Champ!	10 am - Fun Zone 11 am - 1st Floor Lobby 12 pm - Fountain
Picture with the President	10:15 am - 11:15 am	Picture with the President	Fountain
Faculty Meet and Greet - Forbes School of Business®	10:30 am - 11:30 am	Come and meet the Executive Dean, Associate Deans, advisors, and faculty members from your college!	Leadership Room
Faculty Meet and Greet- College of Health, Human Services, and Science, College of Education, and College of Liberal Arts	10:30 am - 11:30 am	Come and meet the Executive Dean, Associate Deans, advisors, and faculty members from your college!	Cafe
Honor Society Meet & Greet	12:00 pm - 12:45 pm	Honor Societies: Alpha Sigma Lambda, Golden Key, SALUTE, Phi Theta Kappa, Delta Alpha Pi and Sigma Beta Delta	Leadership Room
Alumni Association Celebration	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Join us Saturday night for a graduation celebration hosted by the Ashford University Alumni Association. Come and connect with other graduates and learn about regional alumni engagement opportunities. Space is limited. RSVP using the link below by September 23, 2016. http://bridgepoint.col.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bxXzCDuf46ByahL	Dave & Buster's 2931 Camino Del Rio N San Diego, CA 92108

Student Bookstore Sale

Don't forget to make a stop at the Bookstore sale to purchase the latest Ashford University gear, upgrade your diploma frames, select an Ashford sweatshirt, and more! The store will be open on Saturday October 1, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. On Sunday, October 2, a satellite store will be open prior to and after the ceremony. Please note that the satellite store will close for 1 hour during the ceremony but will reopen prior to the end of the ceremony. If you wish to see the full inventory of items for sale, please visit the bookstore during the day on Saturday or visit ShopAshford.com

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 - PARKING

Beginning at 8:30 am on Saturday, October 1, the parking structure will be open at the San Diego Ashford University Campus Family Celebration day. Parking will be available all day and will be able to accommodate all guests.

Special Accommodation Parking

Beginning at 8:30 am on Saturday, October 1, special accommodation parking will be available for those students and guests with state issued disabled parking placards. The special accommodation parking spots will be located at the entrance of the parking structure at the Ashford Campus (**8620 Spectrum Center Blvd. San Diego, CA 92123**).

Guests with mobility impairments who do not possess a state issued disabled parking placard may drop off guests by the handicapped parking, and proceed to regular parking in the parking structure.

Decorate your Cap

There will be a station set up on Saturday if you'd like to decorate your cap and personalize it for the big event! Bring your graduation cap, and look for the decoration station on Saturday!



Questions?

We hope that this newsletter answers a lot of your questions. Please also visit ashford.edu/student_services/graduation.htm for more details on traveling to San Diego, local hotel information, rental car discounts, and much more.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email graduation.information@ashford.edu. You may also call 866.974.5700 x 20410.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 - PLANNING FOR YOUR CEREMONY

Protocol for Receiving Diploma Covers on Stage

For all colleges, the Executive Dean of the College will announce each degree one at a time. When called, candidates will rise and file to the right or left of the stage depending on where they are seated. Once on the stage, candidates will hand their information cards to an Ashford representative, who will scan their card. The student's name will be announced over the loud speakers at Viejas Arena. The candidates then proceed to Dr. Craig Swenson, University President to shake hands and receive their diploma cover. Undergraduates will move their tassel from the right to left side of their cap before they leave the stage. All candidates then exit the stage from the front center steps and proceed down the center aisle back to their original seat.

Please note: Diplomas will not be issued at the ceremony. Diplomas will be ordered and mailed to your address on file upon completion of all degree requirements and payment of any outstanding balance due to the University.

Appropriate Commencement Attire

Women should wear dresses, skirts, or dress slacks with appropriate tops. Men should wear collared shirts, neckties, and dress slacks. Please wear dark comfortable shoes. Ladies, black pumps are the most appropriate footwear for commencement dress, but please know that you may be standing for long periods of time. Any jackets or sweaters must be worn under the commencement gown. Mortar boards should be worn with the point above your nose and flat so that the square part is level. Master's candidates should have their tassels on the left side. Bachelor's candidates wear tassels on the right side. Candidates may not carry any personal items in the processional, including cell phones, video cameras, and other electronic devices. No security is provided for these items if left unattended. Proper decorum is expected of all participants.

Special Accommodations

Graduates requiring accommodation for a disability should contact the Office of Student Access and Wellness at access@ashford.edu a minimum of two weeks prior to the ceremony in order to ensure all requests may be met. Special seating areas will be designated for guests who are pregnant, elderly, or who have disabilities. Please have guests arrive early to ensure they are able to access the designated seating area and have them notify event staff that they are a guest needing special seating. A limited number of assistive listening devices and large print programs will be available upon request.

Viejas Arena Protocol

No strollers or balloons will be allowed to enter Viejas Arena. A stroller check will be provided at the entrance of the arena. Please do not bring in balloons; you will need to discard them prior to entering the arena.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY PARKING

Beginning at 7:30 am on Sunday, October 2, Viejas Arena will be open for graduates and guests to park.

Special accommodation students will need to be dropped off near the roundabout in front of Viejas Arena and then your party may proceed to the parking lot (55th Avenue & Aztec Walk).

Parking will be \$15.00 cash only on the day of the event. Once you have parked your vehicle, please proceed to Viejas Arena. Students will report to Lot 13 while families remain at the entrance of the arena.

NOTE: Traffic to and from the event can be very congested. Please take this point into consideration when planning travel arrangements. It could take 30 minutes to an hour to exit the parking structures after the ceremony.

Things to Do in San Diego, CA

Wondering what to do or where to eat while you are in San Diego for the weekend? Visit the [Convention & Visitors Bureau website at www.sandiego.org](http://www.sandiego.org) for everything you need to know to make your stay in San Diego a great one. From the website you can find a list of attractions, restaurants or can even request a free Visitors Guide to be sent to you. Enjoy!

Photography and Video

Color photographs of graduates will be taken during the ceremony. To download the video of the ceremony and photos, please reference the email that will be sent to you after the ceremony.

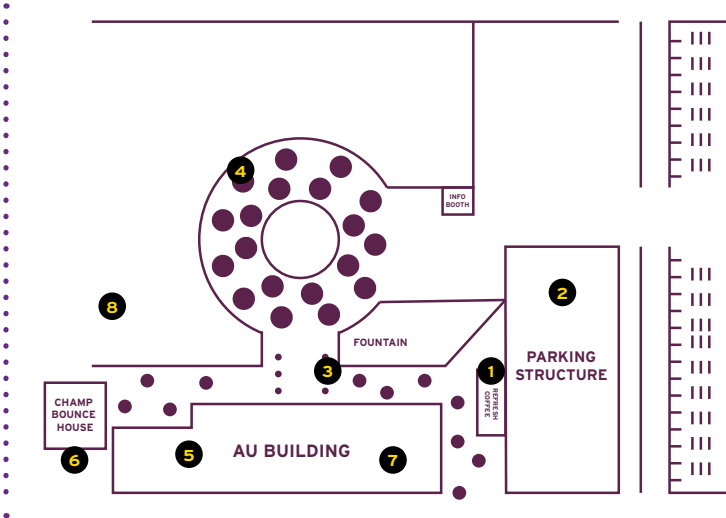
Transportation Tips

San Diego has a trolley that arrives directly in front of Viejas Arena. This option is good if you're staying downtown or in the Mission Valley area. Please reference the [Metropolitan Transit System website](http://www.sandiego.org) to plan your trip.

Cabs and Ubers are also very accessible in the San Diego area.

SATURDAY CELEBRATION MAP (ASHFORD CAMPUS)

- 1** Refresh Coffee
- 2** Bookstore
- 3** Picture with the President
- 4** Seating Area
- 5** Leadership Room
- 6** Champ Bounce House/Future Achiever Fun Zone
- 7** Cafe
- 8** Cap Decorating/Photo Stations



SUNDAY COMMENCEMENT MAP (VIEJAS ARENA)



You've
EARNED IT!

**CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2016
ASHFORD UNIVERSITY GRADUATES!**



ASHFORD UNIVERSITY®
Alumni Association