Hello
Commencement Ceremony Participants!

Congratulations on making it to commencement. You have come a long way. The Spring 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, May 1, 2016.

The day before the commencement ceremony, Saturday, April 30, 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

Saturday, April 30, 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

Sunday, May 1, 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

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.
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, April 30, 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!

Members belonging to the following Honor Societies are invited:

- Alpha Sigma Lambda
- Golden Key
- SALIJTE
- 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 Richard Pattenaude!

Fountain

10:15 am - 11:15 am
Saturday, April 30, Details

The Ashford Campus Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 30, 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!

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SATURDAY, APRIL 30 - PARKING

Beginning at 8:30 am on Saturday, April 30, 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, April 30, 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.

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.

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 April 30, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. On Sunday, May 1, a satellite store will be open prior to and after the ceremony. Please note that the satellite store will closed 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.

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!
Protocol for Receiving Diploma Covers on Stage

For all colleges, the Executive Dean of the College will present 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. The student’s name will be announced over the loud speakers at Viejas Arena. The candidates then proceed to Dr. Richard Pattenaude or Dr. Lorraine Williams, University President and University Provost, respectively, to shake hands and receive their diploma cover. 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 underneath 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. 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, May 1, Viejas Arena will be open for graduates and guests to park.

Special accommodation students will need to be dropped off at the roundabout in front of Viejas Arena and then your party may proceed to the parking lot.

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 L 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.
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
9. Food Trucks (food for purchase)

SUNDAY  COMMENCEMENT MAP (VIEJAS ARENA)

You’ve EARNED IT!
CONGRATULATIONS SPRING 2016
ASHFORD UNIVERSITY GRADUATES!