

April 15, 2021

Dear ASUN Graduate,

To recognize Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 graduates, ASUN has planned three commencement ceremonies to be held on May 14, 2021. The three ceremonies are as follows: 10:00 am Nursing and Health Professions, 1:00 pm Applied Science, and 3:00 pm General Education. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we have made several important changes to the commencement ceremonies.

Venue

Like previous years, we will conduct the commencement ceremony on the Newport campus. However, unlike previous years, the ceremony will take place outdoors in between the Larry N. Williams Student Community Center and Walton Hall. Graduates (and up to three guests) will be seated in their family unit six feet apart from the next family unit. The ceremony will be live streamed via Facebook Live.

Due to the limited space in the outdoor venue and inability to accommodate an unlimited number of guests, each graduate will be able to request virtual tickets for up to three guests. We understand that often there are many more guests that want to see their graduate walk across the stage in real life but in order to maintain social distancing, those guests who are not included in the ticket request, will be able to watch ceremony via Facebook.

Face Coverings

We will require that everyone wear a face covering when entering and exiting the outdoor area. Once graduates and their guests are in their seats, they may remove their face covering. We will require everyone to wear a face covering whenever they move around the outdoor venue.

Procedure

Because of the unique format of the commencement ceremony, we will be limiting the ceremonial part of the event. We are starting the ceremony at the proper time (i.e., 10:00 am Nursing and Health Professions, 1:00 pm Applied Science, and 3:00 pm General Education) After a brief welcome and faculty senate speaker, we will begin individually recognizing our graduates. When their names are announced, graduates will cross the commencement stage to receive their diploma cover. After receiving the diploma cover, graduates will exit the stage and auditorium to have their picture made by the photographer. Once graduates have their picture made, they will return to their seat. With

no processional, and with fewer speakers, we expect that each ceremony will last no longer than one hour.

Transfer Fair

We are proud to announce that ASUN will host a transfer fair in conjunction with the commencement ceremonies! All colleges and universities in the state will be invited to take part. Additionally, the ASUN Recruitment Team will have a tent set up as well to answer all questions about ASUN! We are excited to be able to offer this event to our graduates!

Notification Deadline

Preparing for commencement will take a lot of work by our staff (i.e. set up, planning, and preparing other logistics). To help with our advance planning, graduates should declare their intention to walk and request tickets by Friday, May 7, 2021.

Click [here](#) to RSVP to walk and request tickets!

We have heard from many students how important the commencement ceremony is to them (and to their friends/family). We also understand that some students will not feel comfortable attending given the pandemic. Please remember, no one is required to attend commencement. It is a symbolic ritual – you are already ASUN graduates even if you do not “walk.” For those who do want to participate, our team has worked hard to safely preserve one our oldest (and best) traditions for you – hearing your name announced as you walk across the commencement stage.

Congratulations and we look forward to seeing you on May 14th!

Questions? Email graduation@asun.edu

Sincerely,

ASUN Commencement Team