



Graduation FAQ

Your Guide to Graduation and Commencement

Q. What is the difference between Graduation and Commencement?

A. Graduation is ensuring that all program requirements have been satisfied to earn a Certificate or Degree. Commencement is the ceremony celebrating all students who submitted a Graduation Petition.

Q. What is a Graduation Petition?

A. A Graduation Petition is a form completed with the assistance of a counselor. It notifies the Graduation Office that you will be completing a Certificate or Diploma.

Q. Do I need to file a Graduation Petition?

A. The answer varies for each student. Please follow the Graduation Petition Flowchart.

Q. What do I need to do to ensure my student record is updated with transfer or test credit?

A. Please submit all Official Transcripts and test scores to Admissions and Records at your earliest convenience.

Q. How will my name appear on the Certificate or Diploma?

A. If you filed a Graduation Petition with a counselor, your name will appear as indicated on the petition. Otherwise, your name will appear as listed on your student record.

Q. What if I changed my name after submitting a Graduation Petition?

A. Please contact the Graduation Office (grad_office@sac.edu) or your assigned Graduation Specialist to ensure that we are notified to review and update your Certificate or Diploma name if needed.

Q. When will I receive my Certificate or Diploma?

A. Reviewing and processing takes 6-8 weeks after the end of each filing semester. The hard copies are mailed out after the processing is complete. The average is 3 months after the end of each semester for mailing.