Dear SDSU Graduate,

We look forward to celebrating your graduation with you next week!

*Please read this PDF carefully and in its entirety.* Here is everything you need to know about attending the 2021 Commencement ceremonies at Petco Park:

This PDF contains important information about your commencement experience, including Petco Park's bag policy, entry tickets, your GradPass and graduate arrival information.

**Commencement Schedule**

**Tuesday, May 25**

9 a.m.: College of Education/Faculty Advancement and Student Success (IS3D)

2 p.m.: College of Sciences

**Wednesday, May 26**

8 a.m.: College of Arts and Letters

1 p.m.: College of Engineering

5:30 p.m.: Fowler College of Business

**Thursday, May 27**

9 a.m.: College of Health and Human Services

2 p.m.: College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

**Parking**

Petco Park is offering parking in two lots for SDSU Commencement.

The *Parkade Lot*: Located at 10th Street and J Street. **Petco Parkade Lot parking is $20.** Pre-purchased permits are no longer available during the Ticketmaster ticket reservation process, but can be purchased at the lot the day of the ceremony with a credit or debit card. Cash will not be accepted.
The Tailgate Lot: Located on 12th Street between K Street and Imperial Avenue. Tailgate Lot parking is $15. Pre-purchased permits are no longer available during the Ticketmaster ticket reservation process, but can be purchased at the lot the day of the ceremony with a credit or debit card. Cash will not be accepted.

A map showing the locations of the parking lots can be found here, on the Parking page.

There are also additional parking lots and parking structures adjacent to Petco Park available for use at your choice, and costs may vary.

San Diego Trolley

Petco Park is easily accessible from the San Diego Trolley. The Gaslamp Quarter Station (Sycuan Green Line) and the 12th and Imperial Transfer Station both are within walking distance, and free parking can be found at many stations. One-way fares may be purchased with a Compass Card for $2.50, with discounts for seniors. For more information, visit the Metropolitan Transit System website.

Digital Tickets

All graduates and guests must have a Petco Park ticket to enter the stadium.

With SDSU Commencement being held at Petco Park, ticket reservation and access requires the use of San Diego Padres Ticketmaster and the MLB Ballpark App to receive digital tickets. The MLB Ballpark App requires a mobile device to utilize the App Store or Google Play.

All registered graduates received an email with a Ticketmaster link to reserve their tickets on Wednesday, May 12, or Thursday, May 13, depending on their college.

After reserving tickets through Ticketmaster, you will need the MLB Ballpark App to access your digital tickets and to forward tickets to your guests. More information about ticket reservation and delivery can be found on the Ticket Reservation and Access page.

Printed Tickets

If a graduate and/or guest is not able to download the MLB Ballpark App, printed tickets will be provided and can be ordered here. The deadline to order these tickets is tomorrow, May 20, at 5 p.m.

Printed tickets can only be picked up the day of your ceremony starting 90-minutes prior to each ceremony. Graduates OR their guests should pick up printed tickets at San Diego Padres
**Ticket Windows 16, 17 and 18.** Students who have ordered printed tickets will be receiving an email communication from the SDSU Commencement Committee.

**Arrival**

Graduates should plan to be in their assigned, ticketed seat **15 minutes prior** to their ceremony start time. Graduates should allow enough time for downtown traffic, parking, and gate entry into Petco Park. The ceremony will begin promptly at the published start time and there will **not** be a student processional. **Graduates should arrive in their traditional, full academic regalia.**

Gates open **one-hour prior** to the ceremony start time. There will only be two gates open at Petco Park during commencement for guests and graduates to enter. All other gates will be closed. The **Home Plate Gate** is located at Park Boulevard and Tony Gwynn Drive. The **Park Boulevard Gate** is located at Park Boulevard and 10th Avenue. Multiple lanes will be open at each gate and specific lanes will be marked as “Graduates.”

If you pre-ordered flowers, you will be able to pick them up from the flower kiosks located throughout the ballpark once gates open. Guests are also welcome to bring pre-purchased flowers into the ballpark.

**COVID-19 Guidelines**

Face coverings will be required for all guests while inside Petco Park. Guests who have a positive COVID test within 10 days of the event, or those who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, may not attend in accordance with county and state public health guidelines.

**Bag Policy and Additional Petco Park Policies**

To minimize surface touch points between employees and guests, **Petco Park prohibits bags** with the exception of infant and medical bags and 6.5” x 4.5” small clutch purses. Please note that bags that are not for infant or medical purposes will be measured upon arrival and anything larger will not be permitted in the ballpark. More entry policies can be found below and on the [Petco Park website](#).

Additional policies for Petco Park:

- Staff will enforce **California face covering requirements** throughout the event, including within the parking lots.
- Tailgating is not permitted.
- Graduates must be seated in their ticketed locations throughout the duration of the ceremony. The grassy area called Gallagher Square at Petco Park will not be open during the commencement ceremonies.
• Relocating to other sections and congregating is not permitted.

• The venue must be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after the event, particularly high touch surfaces. Graduates and guests will be asked to orderly and immediately leave the stadium venue following the ceremony.

• Petco Park will have limited food and beverage offerings available for sale. Please note all food and beverage sales are contactless and must be paid by credit card or mobile pay. **Graduates and guests will be allowed to bring in one factory sealed, plastic water bottle.**

• All attendees, including graduates, staff, or guests, must remain at least six feet apart at all times.

• Graduates must adhere to markers indicating six-foot distances and people should stand on or by the markers and remain six feet from each other.

• To comply with the six-foot spacing, handshaking and hugs outside of families or households should not occur.

**GradPass**

Graduates should arrive at Petco Park with **both their Petco Park ticket and MarchingOrder GradPass.** Graduates will not need to show their RedID as long as they have both their Petco Park ticket and GradPass. Your GradPass can either be printed out or readily available on a mobile device. The graduate will scan the QR code on the GradPass prior to crossing the stage. We recommend that you print your GradPass or save it to your mobile device to avoid technical troubles as you get ready to cross the stage. **All graduates must have their GradPass in order to cross the stage.**

**You will receive a separate email with your GradPass on Friday, May 21.**

**Ceremony Overview**

In order to maintain physical distance during the ceremonies, there will not be a formal graduate processional (when graduates walk in together, single file) or recessional. As mentioned above, graduates should plan to be in their assigned ticketed seat **15 minutes prior** to their ceremony start time.

The ceremony will include remarks by SDSU President Adela de la Torre, the dean of each college and other speakers. University leadership will also present and confer degrees during the ceremony. The entire ceremony, including graduate name reading, should be no longer than two hours.

Graduates will be required to wear a face covering during the duration of the ceremony and should be mindful of social distancing requirements. Graduates will have their name read aloud
as they cross the stage. A live video of each graduate crossing the stage will appear on the jumbotron along with their name, degree/major, and honors, if applicable.

Your ceremony experience will be contactless as you cross the stage. Class of 2021 graduates received their diploma cover in their GradPack which was mailed the week of May 10. Class of 2020 graduates received their diploma covers last year. Please do not bring your diploma cover with you to Petco Park. Graduates will have the opportunity to remove their face covering for the professional photos taken by GradImages Photography prior to crossing the stage.

Doctoral/terminal degree candidates and master’s candidates should arrive wearing their academic hood. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, there will be no physical hooding during the ceremony, but candidates will be individually acknowledged as they traditionally would be during the degree conferral. Please see this how-to video for instructions on wearing the hood. A separate email will be sent from each college coordinator to doctoral/terminal degree candidates with additional instructions.

Get Social!

Be sure to check out our commencement toolkit, which includes social media filters and frames, yard signs, printable banners and much more! Share with family and friends and post on social media using #SDSUgrad.

Ceremony Livestream

A livestream of the in-person ceremonies at Petco Park will be made available on the day of the ceremonies on the SDSU Commencement site.

Virtual Ceremonies/College Recognition Sites

Beginning Monday, May 24, graduates will have the opportunity to view their virtual commencement ceremony via individual college recognition websites. Please visit the Virtual Ceremonies page to access the recognition website links.

In addition to remarks by SDSU leadership, the virtual ceremonies will include honors and military recognition, and the formal conferral of degrees. Each college recognition website will also include the shareable digital MarchingOrder slide for each graduate. Graduates had the opportunity to personalize their graduate slide by submitting a photo and personal message to fellow Aztecs, family, and friends. The deadline to submit a photo and message was Tuesday,
May 4. If a graduate missed this deadline, they will still receive a graduate slide which will include their name, degree/major and honors if applicable.

The virtual ceremonies will be available for unlimited on-demand viewing.

If you have any questions, please visit the FAQ page on the SDSU Commencement website.

The SDSU Commencement Committee