

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is it?

A Multicultural Recognition Ceremony is a graduation reception and celebration for all graduating students who self-identify in any of these specific identity groups: Asian Pacific Islander South Asian (APISA), Black/PanAfrican, Latinx, LGBTQ+, Middle Eastern/North African (MENA), or Native American. The ceremony is a more intimate way of celebrating graduation with family and friends, and focuses on the Asian, Black, Latinx, LGBTQ, Middle Eastern/North African, Native American communities.

What will happen at this event?

The Office for Multicultural Learning has put together a Multicultural Recognition Ceremony that honors each of the diverse ethnic heritages of the Asian Pacific Islander South Asian (APISA), Black/PanAfrican, Latinx, Middle Eastern/North African (MENA), or Native American communities as well as the identity of the LGBTQ community. In person, this evening will start with a reception, then proceed with guest speakers, "sashing" of the graduates, and much more!

Is this the actual graduation?

No, a Multicultural Recognition Ceremony is an opportunity for the community to celebrate the graduating students' accomplishments and an occasion for the students to show appreciation for those who have been instrumental in those accomplishments. The official University-wide Commencement will be held the Saturday after all the Multicultural Recognition Ceremonies end. It will be at the Commencement that you will receive your diploma from the University President. Please contact the University's Commencement Office for details on the University's graduation activities.

What should I wear?

Dress code is business casual, i.e. no ties, no jeans, no flip flops for in-person celebrations. You do not need to, nor should you wear your cap and gown.

How many guests can I bring?

Because we have limited capacity and want all graduating students to have the opportunity to bring up to 4 guests, we can only guarantee a spot for 4 guests maximum per graduating student. If you have more guests in your party, please email Pauline Nguyen at ppnguyen@scu.edu and we'll put them on a waiting list.

Can I invite my teachers and staff members?

The Office for Multicultural Learning has sent out invitations to all the faculty and staff to help celebrate this important point in the life of our graduate but a personal invitation from the graduating student would make it such an honor for them to partake in the ceremonies.

How long will the event last?

Approximately 1 hour. For more details click in the specific ceremony's web page.

If I can't make my specific Ceremony, can I still have a sash?

Because the number of sashes are limited, we give priority to the students who will be attending the ceremony or have RSVP'd. If you cannot attend your specific Ceremony please let us know by emailing us at oml@scu.edu by noon the latest on the RSVP due date.

What happens if I have missed the deadline to RSVP?

If you miss the deadline, your name and statement will not be included in the program booklet. You might not be guaranteed a sash so please RSVP before 12:00pm on the due date!

What happens if I RSVP for a ceremony and I don't show up?

Your name and statement will not be read and you might not be guaranteed a sash.

Can I walk in a different ethnic ceremony than my own?

We are aware of the many students that identify as multi-ethnic and/or multi-racial. Graduating students are encouraged to register for multiple ceremonies in which they identify.

Who do I contact if I have more questions?

You can contact our Associate Director, Bernell Nevil at bnevil@scu.edu or Office Manager, Pauline Nguyen at ppnguyen@scu.edu.

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