



Commencement 2025 | Frequently Asked Questions

UPDATED 12/6/2024

How many guests can come?

5 initial guests per graduate with a waitlist of an additional 5 (space available). We will livestream the event so everyone will be able to celebrate the occasion.

When is Commencement?

Sunday, May 4, 2024 at 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. **Graduates must arrive by 9:00 AM to participate in the rehearsal.**

Which graduates are eligible to walk in the commencement ceremony?

Students who completed their degree in the Summer of 2024, Fall of 2024, and Spring of 2025 are eligible to participate in the ceremony.

Where will Commencement be held?

Santa Clara Convention Center in the Theater (2nd level) 5001 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054 [santaclaraconventioncenter.com](https://www.santaclaraconventioncenter.com)

Can current students attend the ceremony?

Yes, current students may attend as guests of graduates. RSVPs were required by mid-March. See the Dean of Students to see if there are additional tickets available after the deadline.

When does the event start?

The event will run from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. USV Staff must arrive by 8:00 AM. Graduates must arrive by 9:00 AM.

When do graduates need to arrive?

Graduates must arrive by 9:00 AM at the latest.

Will there be a practice session for graduates?

Yes, on Thursday, May 1st from NOON - 3:00 PM in the Dragons Den (for on-campus graduates, but open to all graduates).

Where do we get a cap and gown?

Cap and gowns were ordered through the Registrar's Office during the graduation application process. They can be picked up on campus in the Registrar's Office the week prior to the event or can be picked up at 9:00 AM at the Convention Center on the day of the ceremony. Please note that gowns picked up

at the Convention Center will be wrinkled. Graduates are STRONGLY encouraged to pick up their regalia early so that they may press/steam them beforehand. We will have a steamer on site for you to use.

When should I expect my diploma in the mail?

Generally, graduates can expect to receive their diploma 6 - 8 weeks after commencement

Do I have to pay for Commencement?

If your \$100 payment was received as part of your graduation application process, you're all set. If not, please contact the registrar at registrarsoffice@usv.edu to pay the \$100 Graduation fee.

Where is parking?

Free parking is available on the top deck of the Convention Center parking lot behind the building. Enter the parking structure from the entrance on Great America Parkway between the Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Hotel. From the entrance, follow signs to the Theater (2nd level).

Will this event be recorded or streamed? Yes, the event will be live streamed on Vimeo. See our website on the day of the event for details.

ADA & Service animals

Wheelchair seating is only available at the entrance level and advanced reservations were required to reserve space. **No animals of any kind will be allowed into the theater with the exception of ADA-approved service dogs.**