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Announcing plans for May 2021 commencement

1 message

Chancellor Carol Christ <events1@our.berkeley.edu>

Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Reply-To: Chancellor Carol Christ <reply-fe9110797166047576-573_HTML-13299251-7295388-19@our.berkeley.edu>

To: mgoehring@berkeley.edu

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Chancellor's Office

Dear Students of the Class of 2021,

Amanda Gorman's poem, "The Hill We Climb," served as a balm and beacon to many at the inauguration two weeks ago. In reflecting on the challenges you have courageously faced these last few semesters, I am struck by this passage: "When day comes we step out of the shade / aflame and unafraid / The new dawn blooms as we free it / For there is always light / if only we're brave enough to see it / If only we're brave enough to be it."

As the vaccine becomes more available, we are stepping out of the shade into light, and yet fighting COVID-19 is far from over. In that context, and after consulting with public health experts and Berkeley academic and student leaders, I would like to share the following plans for May 2021 commencement. These plans apply to all undergraduate and graduate students graduating in May and summer 2021.

- **Virtual department graduations (pending your unit's plans)** — Many schools, colleges, and student organizations will hold their own virtual ceremonies starting May 15, 2021, offering the personalized recognition you deserve and the ability to remotely share this moment with your family and friends.
- **Virtual campuswide commencement (confirmed)** — On May 15, 2021, all undergraduate and graduate students will be invited to join a campuswide virtual ceremony that will include speeches, student entertainment, and the conferring of degrees. You will also be able to share this occasion with your family and friends.

- **In-person, student-only walkthroughs (pending local health guidelines and conditions)**
 - Because crossing the stage with your peers is an important part of graduation, we aspire
 - pending local health guidelines and conditions — to hold in-person, student-only walkthroughs at the Greek Theatre starting May 15, 2021.

Planning for each option is still underway, and we will share the details as they are confirmed. In knowing this direction now, I hope you have enough time to plan your virtual or small celebrations of this incredible milestone. I am incredibly inspired by your flexibility, resilience, and perseverance during these strange times and wish you success in your final semester and beyond.

Please contact the commencement office at events1@berkeley.edu or 888.UNIV.CAL (888.864.8225) if you have any questions.

Fiat Lux,

Carol Christ
Chancellor

This message has been sent to all UC Berkeley students on the Spring and Summer 2021 degree lists.

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