

September 15, 2020

Hello fellow Cougars!

Fall classes are well underway and plans for the Fall 2020 Commencement scheduled for Saturday, December 12, are beginning to take shape. Thus, I want to keep you informed of CUC's commencement plans as they unfold.

With continued deep concern for the health and safety of CUC's students, faculty, staff, and the community, all Fall 2020 Commencement exercises will be held virtually to comply with current federal and state guidelines that prohibit large gatherings exceeding 50 people. The Fall 2020 Graduate Commencement ceremony will be held virtually on Saturday, December 12, beginning at 4:00 PM. The ceremony will be streamed online using CUC's livestream ([CUChicago.edu/live](http://CUChicago.edu/live)) and via Facebook Live.

So that we can recognize each student's accomplishment, you will soon be invited to submit a photo that will be shown as your name is read. Photos could be of you wearing your cap and gown (regalia) or another appropriate image. Watch your email for instructions about submitting your photos.

In preparation, here are some important items about which you should be aware and tasks you must complete by the provided deadlines:

***Submit your Intent to Graduate Form***

Students must complete the Intent to Graduate by October 1. This is required to graduate. Check the portal ([Connect.cuchicago.edu](http://Connect.cuchicago.edu)) under the Academics tab to complete the Intent to Graduate form.

***Caps, Gowns, and Hoods (Regalia)***: Students may order regalia using the following link: <https://webforms.cuchicago.edu/student-services/graduation-apparel/>.

- Deadline to order regalia is October 8.
- All orders must be pre-paid at the time of ordering.
- Late orders after October 8 will incur a late fee.
- Students may have orders shipped to their home or shipped to the bookstore for pick up.
- Regalia ordered by the October 8 deadline will be shipped by November 13.

***NEW! Doctoral Hooding Ceremony***

Beginning this fall, CUC will hold a separate Doctoral Hooding ceremony on Friday, December 11, for those individuals receiving doctoral degrees. This new ceremony does not replace commencement. Graduates receiving doctoral degrees will have their names read in both ceremonies. However, the tradition of hooding doctoral graduates is being moved from commencement to this new ceremony, which in time we hope will become another loved CUC tradition. The time of the ceremony is yet to be determined (TBD). Though we wish this special event could be held live, it too must be held virtually and streamed online at CUC's live stream ([CUChicago.edu/live](http://CUChicago.edu/live)) and on Facebook Live. Details regarding the Doctoral Hooding will be shared with doctoral degree recipients in October, so watch for future emails.

Please note, since doctoral graduates will have their names read in the Hooding Ceremony and Commencement, they are encouraged to participate in both the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on Friday, December 11, and the Graduate Commencement on Saturday, December 12. Do both! You've earned it!

**Graduate Photos:** We encourage you to take your own photos and PLEASE share them with us via social media. Remember to tag #CUCGRAD on your posts.

Please continue to regularly check the commencement website frequently, as updates will also be posted there: [CUChicago.edu/commencement](http://CUChicago.edu/commencement).

*Dr. Kevin Borchers*

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