



POLICY TITLE	Eligibility for Participation in Commencement	Policy Number	509
Section	Student Affairs	Approval Date	February 13, 1997
Subsection	Admissions, Enrollment, Tuition, and Commencement	Effective Date	February 13, 1997
Responsible Office	Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs		

1.0 PURPOSE

2.0 REFERENCES

3.0 DEFINITIONS

4.0 POLICY

4.1 Students who have applied for graduation during an academic year (Summer, Fall, or Spring Semester) shall be invited to participate in the annual commencement exercises held each year at the end of Spring Semester. Unless otherwise approved, students may participate in commencement only once for each degree received at the University.

4.2 Exceptions for Commencement Participation

4.2.1 A summer graduation applicant who at the time of application has 12 or fewer credit hours remaining to complete his or her degree may participate in commencement exercises with the approval of the appropriate dean. The dean's approval must be granted no later than six weeks prior to commencement. Students should not be encouraged to participate in commencement exercises prior to the completion of their degree requirements.

4.2.2 The students' names shall appear in the commencement program for the year they have sought an exception. A disclaimer shall be printed in the program regarding the fact that all names listed in the program do not officially evidence completion of the students' academic programs.



4.2.3 Students' names shall appear again in the program for the year in which their graduation is official.

4.2.4 Since those students requesting an exception for commencement are not considered part of that year's graduating class, they shall not be considered as valedictorian candidates for that year. Those students, however, shall be considered as valedictorian and honor candidates during the year of their official graduation. In this instance, a student who is selected for special honors may attend the additional commencement exercises.

4.2.5 Fall graduation applicants may only participate in commencement exercises at the end of the following Spring Semester.

5.0 PROCEDURES

POLICY HISTORY		
Date of Last Action	Action Taken	Authorizing Entity