

ASHFORD

INSIDE COMMENCEMENT NEWSLETTER

8620 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123

Hello Commencement Ceremony Participants!

Congratulations on making it to commencement. You have come a long way. The Fall 2015 commencement ceremony is just around the corner!

All students, both graduate and undergraduate, will attend one ceremony which will take place at Viejas Arena located at 5500 Canyon Crest Dr in San Diego, CA on Sunday, October 4, 2015.

The day before the commencement ceremony, Saturday, October 3, you, your family, and your friends are invited to the Ashford Commencement Celebration at the Ashford University San Diego campus. This special family occasion will feature numerous fun events. The schedule of events for the entire commencement weekend are on the following pages, as well as general information for the events. We look forward to celebrating with you in October.

Sincerely,

Ashford University
Commencement Committee

Please be aware that should severe inclement weather require changes to the events, students will be notified by text message (if they signed up for the service while ordering their regalia) or by email. All information will also be posted to the Ashford University Facebook page.

Please note: By being present at the events held throughout commencement weekend, you release Ashford University from all claims regarding the use of your likeness and/or image in any print or electronic media including, but not limited to, video, television, and newspaper.

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015 CAMPUS CELEBRATION

Food, fun, and friends await you at the Ashford Campus Celebration! The Saturday before commencement will be jam-packed with activities for all ages! For complete details, see page 3.

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Ashford University's Commencement ceremonies will take place at Viejas Arena in San Diego, CA.

8:00 AM - CHECK-IN OPEN

10:00 AM - ALL COLLEGES

Ticketing

Tickets will not be issued for the event. Instead, we will offer open seating. Seating at Viejas Arena will be limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Honors Regalia

Students who have not completed their courses prior to the ceremony weekend will have their degrees evaluated two (2) weeks prior to the ceremony to determine if they qualify for University honors. If qualifications are met as of that review, temporary honors will be awarded to the student and will be recognized at the ceremony. Any student who has earned honors or has been temporarily awarded honors will receive their regalia when they check in the morning of the ceremony. This group includes students who have been inducted into honor societies (Alpha Sigma Lambda, Delta Alpha Pi, Golden Key, SALUTE or Phi Theta Kappa) and/or students earning University honor designations (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude). For students who have previously been inducted into an honor society, there is no additional cost for honors regalia. Students may not join societies the day of the ceremony. Actual honors earned are listed on official University transcripts.



Honor Societies Meet & Greet

Members of Ashford Honor Societies are cordially invited to a private Meet & Greet on Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 12:15 pm to 12:45 pm, in the Leadership Room at the San Diego campus. Come and enjoy refreshments, photography opportunities, and meet with other society members from around the world!

Members belonging to the following Honor Societies are invited:

- Alpha Sigma Lambda
- Golden Key
- SALUTE
- Phi Theta Kappa
- Ashford Junior-Senior Honor Society
- Mu Sigma Eta
- Scholars Institute
- Sigma Tau Delta
- Delta Alpha Pi

College Meet & Greet

College of Education:

10:30 am - Leadership Room

College of Health, Human Services, and Science:

10:30 am - Training Room 6

College of Liberal Arts:

11:15 am - Training Room 6

Forbes School of Business*:

11:15 am - Leadership Room

Military Appreciation Event

Military and Veteran students and their families.

1:15 pm - 1:45 pm - Leadership Room



Get Your Picture Taken with President Richard Pattenaude!

**Fountain
10:00 am - 11:00 am**



ASHFORD UNIVERSITY*

Alumni Association

Saturday, October 3, Details

The Ashford Campus Celebration will be held on Saturday, October 3, with main celebration events taking place at San Diego's Ashford University Campus located at 8620 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123. This fun-filled festival will be packed with plenty to do for the entire family including campus tours, various events, food, a kids' play zone, photo opportunities, a faculty meet and greet, and more!

ALL DAY EVENTS			
Event	Time	Description	Location
Refresh Coffee	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Pastries, coffee, tea, and smoothies are available for purchase.	Refresh Coffee Cart
Bookstore Sale	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Stock up on all your favorite Ashford gear!	Cafeteria
Campus Tours	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	A sign-up table for tours will be available where tours will leave every 30 minutes. Tours of the San Diego campus will include working space, training rooms, and historical information of the Ashford University San Diego campus.	Tent across from fountain
Future Achievers Fun Zone	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	This kids' area is loaded with fun things to do including bounce houses, games, craft projects, and more.	West side of the building
Information Booth	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Come here to get any information you need.	Entrance
Career Services	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Start your post graduation planning now. Stop and talk about your future with our Career Services staff.	Tent across from fountain
Alumni Association Activation	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Activate your Ashford Alumni Association Membership.	Tent across from fountain

SCHEDULED EVENTS			
Picture with the President	10:00 am - 11:00 am	Picture with the President	Fountain
Faculty Meet and Greet - College of Health, Human Services, and Science	10:30 am - 11:00 am	Come and meet the Executive Dean, Associate Deans, advisors, and faculty members from your college!	Training Room 6
Faculty Meet and Greet - College of Education	10:30 am - 11:00 am	Come and meet the Executive Dean, Associate Deans, advisors, and faculty members from your college!	Leadership Room
Photo with Champ	11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm	Come say hello to everyone's favorite St. Bernard, Champ!	11:00 am - Fountain 12:00 pm - Fountain 1:00 pm - Fun Zone
Faculty Meet and Greet - College of Liberal Arts	11:15 am - 11:45 am	Come and meet the Executive Dean, Associate Deans, advisors, and faculty members from your college!	Training Room 6
Faculty Meet and Greet - Forbes School of Business®	11:15 am - 11:45 pm	Come and meet the Executive Dean, Associate Deans, advisors, and faculty members from your college!	Leadership Room
Honor Society Meet & Greet	12:15 pm - 12:45 pm	Honor Societies: Alpha Sigma Lambda, Golden Key, SALUTE, Phi Theta Kappa, Ashford Junior-Senior Honor Society, Mu Sigma Eta, Scholars Institute, Sigma Tau Delta, Ashford Faculty Institute, Delta Alpha Pi	Leadership Room
Military Appreciation Event	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm	Private Event: Military and veteran students, along with their families, are invited to meet Dr. Pattenaude and receive a challenge coin.	Leadership Room

Designated Rest Areas 1st and 2nd floors of the building

Student Bookstore Sale

Don't forget to make a stop at the Bookstore sale to purchase the latest Ashford University gear, upgrade your diploma frames, select an Ashford sweatshirt, and more! The store will be open on Saturday October 3, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. On Sunday, October 4, a satellite store will be open prior to and during the commencement ceremonies. Please note that the selection at the satellite store will be limited due to the location. If you wish to see the full inventory of items for sale, please visit the bookstore during the day on Saturday.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 - PARKING

Beginning at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 3, the parking structure will be open at the San Diego Ashford University Campus Family Celebration day. Parking will be available all day and will be able to accommodate all guests.

NOTE: Traffic to and from all events can be very congested. Please take this point into consideration when planning travel arrangements.

Special Accommodation Parking

Beginning at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 3, special accommodation parking will be available for those students and guests with state issued disabled parking placards. The special accommodation parking spots will be located at the entrance of the parking structure at the Ashford Campus (**8620 Spectrum Center Blvd. San Diego, CA 92123**).

Guests with mobility impairments who do not possess a state issued disabled parking placard may drop off guests by the handicapped parking, and proceed to regular parking in the parking structure.

Decorate Your Cap

There will be a station set up on Saturday if you'd like to decorate your cap and personalize it for the big event! Bring your graduation cap, and look for the decoration station on Saturday!



Questions?

We hope that this newsletter answers a lot of your questions. Please also visit ashford.edu/student_services/graduation.htm for more details on traveling to San Diego, local hotel information, rental car discounts, and much more.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email graduation.information@ashford.edu. You may also call 866.974.5700 x 20410.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 - PLANNING FOR YOUR CEREMONY

Protocol for Receiving Diploma Covers on Stage

For all colleges, the Executive Dean of the College will announce each degree one at a time. When called, candidates will rise and file to the right or left of the stage depending on where they are seated. Once on the stage, candidates will hand their information cards to an Ashford representative, who will scan their card. The student's name will be announced over the loud speakers at Viejas Arena. The candidates then proceed to Dr. Richard Pattenaude or Dr. Lorraine Williams, University President and University Provost, respectively, to shake hands and receive their diploma cover. Undergraduates will move their tassel from the right to left side of their cap before they leave the stage. All candidates then exit the stage from the front center steps and proceed down the center aisle back to their original seat.

Please note: Diplomas will not be issued at the ceremony. Diplomas will be ordered and mailed to your address on file upon completion of all degree requirements and payment of any outstanding balance due to the University.

Appropriate Commencement Attire

Women should wear dresses, skirts, or dress slacks with appropriate tops. Men should wear collared shirts, neckties, and dress slacks. Please wear dark comfortable shoes. Ladies, black pumps are the most appropriate footwear for commencement dress, but please know that you may be standing for long periods of time. Any jackets or sweaters must be worn under the commencement gown. Mortar boards should be worn with the point above your nose and flat so that the square part is level. Master's candidates should have their tassels on the left side. Bachelor's candidates wear tassels on the right side. Candidates may not carry any personal items in the processional, including cell phones, video cameras, and other electronic devices. No security is provided for these items if left unattended. Proper decorum is expected of all participants.

Special Accommodations

Graduates requiring accommodation for a disability should contact the Office of Student Access and Wellness at access@ashford.edu a minimum of two weeks prior to the ceremony in order to ensure all requests may be met. Special seating areas will be designated for guests who are pregnant, elderly, or who have disabilities. Please have guests arrive early to ensure they are able to access the designated seating area and have them notify event staff that they are a guest needing special seating. A limited number of assistive listening devices and large print programs will be available upon request.

Viejas Arena Protocol

No strollers or balloons will be allowed to enter Viejas Arena. A stroller check will be provided at the entrance of the arena. Please do not bring in balloons; you will need to discard them prior to entering the arena.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY PARKING

Beginning at 7:30 am on Sunday, October 4, Viejas Arena will be open for graduates and guests to park.

Special accommodation students will need to be dropped off at the roundabout in front of Viejas Arena and then your party may proceed to the parking lot.

Parking will be \$15.00 cash only on the day of the event. Once you have parked your vehicle, please proceed to Viejas Arena. Students will report to Lot L while families remain at the entrance of the arena.

NOTE: Traffic to and from the event can be very congested. Please take this point into consideration when planning travel arrangements. It could take 30 minutes to an hour to exit the parking structures after the ceremony.

Things to Do in San Diego, CA

Wondering what to do or where to eat while you are in San Diego for the weekend? Visit the [Convention & Visitors Bureau website](http://www.sandiego.org) at www.sandiego.org for everything you need to know to make your stay in San Diego a great one. From the website you can find a list of attractions, restaurants or can even request a free Visitors Guide to be sent to you. Enjoy!

Photography and Video

Color photographs of graduates will be taken during the ceremony by Grad Images. To order a DVD, and photos please reference the email that will be sent to you after the ceremony.

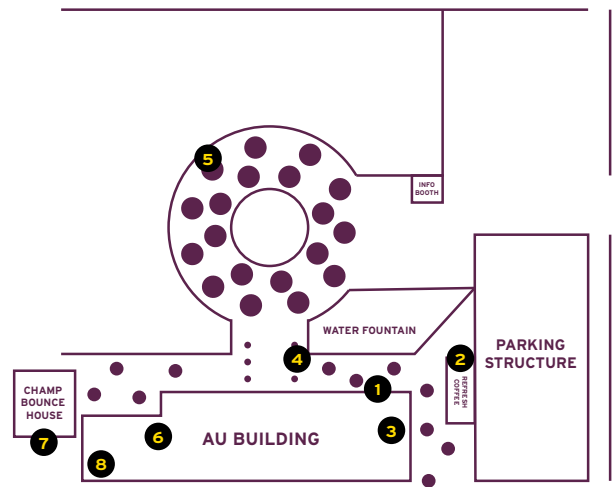
Transportation Tips

San Diego has a trolley that arrives directly in front of Viejas Arena. This option is good if you're staying downtown or in the Mission Valley area. Please reference the [Metropolitan Transit System website](http://www.metrotransit.org) to plan your trip.

Cabs and Ubers are also very accessible in the San Diego area.

SATURDAY CELEBRATION MAP (ASHFORD CAMPUS)

- 1 Check-in
- 2 Refresh Coffee
- 3 Bookstore
- 4 Picture with the President
- 5 Seating Area
- 6 Leadership Room
- 7 Champ Bounce House/Future Achiever Fun Zone
- 8 Training Room 6



SUNDAY COMMENCEMENT MAP (VIEJAS ARENA)



You've
EARNED IT!

CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2015
ASHFORD UNIVERSITY GRADUATES!



ASHFORD UNIVERSITY®
Alumni Association