The Mission of

SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

IS TO FOSTER A STEADY STREAM

OF GLOBAL CITIZENS

COMMITTED TO

LIVING A CONTRIBUTIVE

Life.
Dear members of the Class of 2015,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Soka University of America (SUA), I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you on your upcoming graduation in May. This year we honor the academic achievements of the undergraduate students completing their bachelor’s degree program in Liberal Arts. We are truly proud of the role you have played in SUA’s continuing success and recognition as an academically rigorous, international university.

As you begin preparing for your graduation, we would like to provide you with this Commencement Guide to inform you of the activities that will take place during Commencement week. We hope that this guide will offer you ample time to plan in advance for a memorable graduation.

We look forward to celebrating this occasion together with you, your family and friends.

Sincerely,
Daniel Y. Habuki, Ph.D.
President
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Greetings from the University-wide Commencement Committee

Dear graduating students,

Each year, the University-wide Commencement Committee, consisting of administrators and student representatives, come together to plan for our Commencement Ceremony and related events leading up to that special day.

In anticipation of your Commencement, I’m sure you and your family members have many questions such as when certain events will be held and how many family members and friends you may be able to invite. In this guide, you will find answers to such questions as well as other important information you should know as you prepare for your Commencement. As we plan for graduation this year to be held in the Soka Performing Arts Center, you’ll find there are some details that have yet to be completely fleshed out. Still, there is ample information here for you to start your planning process with all good diligence. Please review this guide carefully and, of course, let us know if you have any questions.

Our committee is committed to making all Commencement events truly special for you, your families and friends.

We look forward to celebrating your new departure together.

Sincerely,

Jay Heffron, Ph.D.
Chair, University-wide Commencement Committee
End-of-Year Activities Schedule

February 16
Nomination for Student Commencement Speakers
Monday
Due to Senior Class Representatives
By 5:00pm

February 21
100 Days to Graduation Celebration
Saturday
Place and Time TBA

March 23
Ticket Request Deadline
Monday
On-line via Angel
5:00pm

March 25
Graduation Fair
Wednesday
Dining Hall
11:30am – 1:30pm

April 1
Student Commencement Speaker(s) Announced
Wednesday

April 3
50 Days to Graduation Celebration
Friday
Place and Time TBA

April 27
Senior Exit Meeting
Monday
Pauling 216
4:40pm – 5:30pm

April 28
Financial Aid Exit Counseling
Tuesday
for students receiving Federal Loans
Pauling 216
4:45pm – 6:00pm

April 29
Financial Aid Exit Counseling
Wednesday
for students receiving Soka Loans
Pauling 216
4:45pm – 6:00pm
April 30 – May 1 Cap & Gown Pick-up
Thursday Founders 205
Friday 9:30am – 12:00pm, 2:00pm – 4:30pm

May 20 Commencement Rehearsal for Graduating Students
Wednesday In front of Peace Fountain
9:30am

Alumni – Student Exchange
Place and Time TBA

May 21 Campus Tour for Family and Guests
Thursday Founders Hall Atrium
10:00am and 2:00pm

Appreciation Reception
Founders Hall 1st Fl. Art Gallery
6:30pm – 8:00pm

May 22 Commencement Ceremony
Friday Soka Performing Arts Center
2:00pm

May 23 Sohokai Alumni Annual Meeting
Saturday Place and Time TBA

Alumni Mixer
Place and Time TBA

May 26 Seniors Res Hall Check-out
Tuesday By 12:00pm

May 27-28 Seniors Extended Housing
(Daily charge apply)
### Important Information

**Graduation Fair:**  
**REQUIRED for all graduating students**

**Date:**  
Wednesday, March 25, 2015

**Place:**  
Dining Hall

**Time:**  
11:30am – 1:30pm

Graduating students will be able to order their cap and gown, stole, class ring and announcements. Class rings and announcements will be sent directly to the students, but the cap, gown and stole will be sent to the Registrar’s Office. The cap, gown and stole can be picked up at the Registrar’s Office during April 30 – May 1, between 9:30am – 12:00pm and 2:00pm – 4:30pm.

**Senior Exit Meeting:**  
**REQUIRED for all graduating students**

**Date:**  
Monday, April 27, 2015

**Place:**  
Pauling 216

**Time:**  
4:40pm – 5:30pm

Graduating students will receive important information from the Registrar’s Office regarding Commencement.

- **IT Related Information:**
  
  As of the end of the day on May 26, 2015, Soka Student Accounts will not be available to graduates. IT will provide directions on how to take important information after SUA. This information will also be available on the SUA Portal. Please contact IT Department with any questions or problems.

- **Residential Hall Information:**
  
  Students will receive information regarding Residential Hall check-out procedures and senior extended housing.

- **Sohokai Alumni Association:**
  
  Students will have an opportunity to receive information regarding becoming members of the Sohokai Alumni Association.
Financial Aid Exit Counseling:

**REQUIRED for all graduating students with loans**

**Students receiving Federal Loans:**
- Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2015
- Place: Pauling 216
- Time: 4:45pm – 6:00pm

**Students receiving Soka Loans:**
- Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2015
- Place: Pauling 216
- Time: 4:45pm – 6:00pm

Students who have borrowed either a Federal or Soka Loan must attend the Exit Counseling Workshop provided by the Office of Financial Aid to learn about their repayment obligations after they graduate.

Commencement Rehearsal:

**REQUIRED for all graduating students**

- Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2015
- Place: In Front of Peace Fountain
- Time: 9:30am

Graduating students will rehearse the line-up, procession, picture location, seating, grip & grin photograph, and recession. It is very important that all graduating students attend this rehearsal.

Diplomas

Graduating students will not receive the actual diploma on Commencement day. They will only receive their diploma cover. Once a final degree check has been completed, diplomas will be printed and sent to the student. Students should be sure to update their home/mailing address information in Peoplesoft before they leave.
Commencement Ceremony
Date: Friday, May 22, 2015
Place: Soka Performing Arts Center
Time: 2:00pm
- Ticket is required to enter the Performing Arts Center
- Performing Arts Center lobby doors will open at 12:00pm
- Doors to the theater will open at 1:00pm for seating
- No drinks or food allowed inside the Performing Arts Center
- Campus is closed to the public
- Light refreshments to be served following the ceremony outside the Performing Arts Center. In case of rain, refreshments will be served in Founders Hall

Commencement Tickets
Guest admission to the Commencement Ceremony is by ticket only. Other than graduating students, no other members of the SUA community can request tickets for their own guests. (Children under 5 years of age will not be able to attend the ceremony. Limited number of seats will be available in the Black Box Theater for parents/guardians with the children under the age of 5 years to view the ceremony via live video feed.)

All guests must be seated by 1:45pm. Any open seats after 1:45pm may be filled by other guests.

- Parents/Guardians and Guests of Graduating Students
  Graduating students may request up to a total of five (5) tickets for their parents/guardians and guests (the graduate does not need a ticket for admission). Detailed directions on how to request the tickets is forthcoming and the deadline for the request will be 3/23. Any special seating request such as wheel chair access must be made at the time of ticket request.
Tickets can be either picked up by graduating students at the Soka Performing Arts Center Box Office during the week of commencement or be picked up by invited guests at the Will-Call under the graduate’s name on the day of the commencement.

- **Full-Time Faculty**
  Faculty members participating in the ceremony do not need a ticket.

- **Underclassmen, Adjunct/Visiting Faculty and Staff**
  Those wishing to attend can request one (1) ticket for himself/herself. Directions on how to request the ticket is forthcoming. Due to limited seating, there may be a lottery if the total number of request exceeds allotted seat number.

- **Alumni**
  Alumni should make their request to Sohokai Alumni Association or Soseikai Graduate School Alumni Association.

**Senior Class Representatives**
The Senior Class Representatives will coordinate student events such as the 100 and/or 50 Days to Graduation Celebration and the selection process for student commencement speakers. These representatives are elected by the student body and will be members of the University-wide Commencement Committee.

**Student Commencement Speaker(s)**
The selection process for student Commencement Speaker(s) is determined and coordinated by a selection committee with student representatives.
100 and 50 Days to Graduation Celebration

100 Days
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2015
Place: TBA
Time: TBA

50 Days
Date: Friday, April 3, 2015
Place: TBA
Time: TBA

All SUA students are invited to celebrate 100 and 50 days left before commencement sponsored by Senior Class Representatives.

Appreciation Reception
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015
Place: Founders Hall 1st Floor Art Gallery
Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Open to graduating students and their two guests only. This is a special night for seniors to thank their parents or guardians for all their support and to share what they have learned while at SUA. This is a ticketed event and a dessert reception (NOT a dinner reception). Each graduating student will receive two tickets during Senior Exit Meeting.

Campus Tours for Family and Friends
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015
Place: Founders Hall Atrium
Time: 10:00am and 2:00pm

Campus tours will be provided for friends and families of the graduates who will be visiting the university the day prior to Commencement. The morning tour begins at 10:00am and the afternoon tour begins at 2:00pm.
Sohokai Annual Alumni Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 23, 2015
Place: TBA
Time: TBA

New alumni members of the Class of 2015 are invited to attend the Sohokai Annual Alumni Meeting. This event is for Alumni only. Alumni must RSVP to Alumni Services at AlumniServices@soka.edu.

Discounted Meal Tickets

Students may purchase discounted meal tickets for guests from Dining Services for $35. Each packet contains 5 meal tickets which can be used for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Hotel Accommodations

There are no lodging accommodations on campus. However, family and guests can find nearby hotel information on the Soka website: http://www.soka.edu/about_soka/visit_soka/hotels-dining-entertainment/

Parking

Parking is available on campus and maps of parking lots will be provided at the Main Gate by the Security upon request.

Bookstore Hours during Commencement Week

Mon-Wed: 10:30am – 5:30pm
Thurs, Fri: 10:30am – 6:30pm
Directions to Campus

From Interstate 5:
1. Go to Oso Parkway exit and turn west (right if you are coming south, left if you are coming north)
2. Oso becomes Pacific Park Drive
3. Travel about five miles on Pacific Park Drive – turn left on Wood Canyon Drive
4. After one mile, turn right on University

From the South on Interstate 5 via Toll Road (SR73*):
1. From Interstate 5, take the northbound State Route 73* toll road.
2. Travel on the 73 to Aliso Creek – turn left on Aliso Creek, right on Pacific Park, left on Wood Canyon Drive
3. After one mile, turn right on University

From the North on Interstate 405:
1. From Interstate 405, take the southbound State Route 73* toll road
2. Travel 11.8 miles on the 73 to the Glenwood Exit (right)
3. Turn right on Wood Canyon Drive
4. After one mile, turn right on University

From the East on State Route 55:
1. From State Route 55, take the southbound State Route 73* toll road
2. Travel 11.8 miles on the 73 to the Glenwood Exit (right)
3. Turn right on Wood Canyon Drive
4. After one mile, turn right on University

From the West on Pacific Coast Highway:
1. From Pacific Coast Highway, take Laguna Canyon Rd. (SR133) north
2. Travel 3.2 miles on Laguna Canyon Rd. to El Toro Rd. - Turn right on El Toro Rd.
3. Travel 1.3 miles on El Toro Rd. to Aliso Creek Rd. - Turn right on Aliso Creek Rd.
4. Travel 2.6 miles on Aliso Creek Rd. to Glenwood - Turn right on Glenwood
5. Travel 0.7 miles to Wood Canyon Drive - Turn right on Wood Canyon Drive
6. After one mile, turn right on University Drive

* State Route 73 is a toll road costing up to $7.35 to use. For a toll-free route take Interstate 5 to Oso Parkway, turn west and follow directions above.
Important Telephone Numbers

Community Relations ...........................................(949) 480-4081
Development.....................................................(949) 480-4072
Financial Aid .....................................................(949) 480-4042
Health Services ..................................................(949) 480-4143
Office of Dean of Faculty ....................................(949) 480-4207
Office of Dean of Students .................................(949) 480-4139
Office of the President .......................................(949) 480-4003
Registrar .........................................................(949) 480-4045
Residential Life ..................................................(949) 480-4134
Security ............................................................(949) 480-4100
Student Accounts..............................................(949) 480-4129
Student Affairs ...............................................(949) 480-4138