

COMMENCEMENT GUIDE | 2017

Soka University of America



SOKA
UNIVERSITY



The Mission of

SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
IS TO FOSTER A STEADY STREAM
OF GLOBAL CITIZENS
COMMITTED TO
LIVING A CONTRIBUTIVE

life.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members of the Class of 2017,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Soka University of America, 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 and the graduate students completing their master's degree program in Educational Leadership and Societal Change. We are truly proud of the role you have played in Soka University'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,

Hyon Moon, Ed.D.

Chair, University-wide Commencement Committee

END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

| | |
|--|---|
| February 24 Friday | 100 Days to Graduation Celebration Student Affairs and Time TBA |
| March 27 Monday | Ticket Request Deadline 5:00pm |
| March 29 Wednesday | Order Graduation Attire Dining Hall 11:30am – 1:30pm |
| April 5 Wednesday | Student Commencement Speakers Announced |
| April 21 Friday | 50 Days to Graduation Celebration Student Affairs and Time TBA |
| May 3 Wednesday | Graduating Students Exit Meeting Pauling 216 4:40pm – 6:30pm |
| May 4 – 5 Thursday – Friday | Undergraduate Cap & Gown Pick-up Founders 205 9:30am – 12:00pm, 2:00pm – 4:30pm |
| May 12 Friday | Undergraduate Senior Ball Place and Time TBA |
| May 24 Wednesday | Commencement Rehearsal for All Graduating Students In front of Peace Fountain 9:30am |
| | Alumni – Student Exchange Place and Time TBA |

May 25
Thursday

Campus Tour
Founders Hall Atrium
10:00am and 2:00pm

Undergraduate Appreciation Reception
TBA
6:30pm – 8:00pm

May 26
Friday

Commencement Ceremony
Soka Performing Arts Center
2:00pm

Soseikai Graduate School Alumni Luncheon
Ikeda 104-D (Graduate School Office)
11:30am – 1:30pm

**Soseikai Graduate School Friends and
Family Reception**
Place TBA
5:00pm – 7:00pm

May 27
Saturday

Sohokai Undergraduate Alumni Annual Meeting
Place and Time TBA

May 30
Tuesday

**Undergraduate & Graduate Class of 2017 Res. Hall
Check-out**
By 12:00pm

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Order Graduation Attire

REQUIRED for all graduating students (Undergraduate & Graduate)

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017

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 May 4 – May 5, between 9:30am – 12:00pm and 2:00pm – 4:30pm.

All Graduating Students Exit Meeting

REQUIRED for all graduating students

Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Place: Pauling 216

Time: 4:40pm – 6:30pm

Graduating students will receive important information from multiple departments, including:

■ *Financial Aid Exit Counseling:*

Students with either a Federal or Soka Loan must complete an exit interview form provided by the Office of Financial Aid. They will learn about their repayment obligations after they graduate.

■ *IT Related Information:*

As of the end of the day on May 30, 2017, Soka Student Accounts will not be available to graduates. IT will provide directions on how to take important information after Soka. This information will also be available on the Soka Portal. Please contact IT Department with any questions or problems.

■ *Residential Hall Information:*

Students will receive information regarding Residential Hall check-out procedures.

■ *Alumni Association:*

Students will have an opportunity to receive information regarding becoming members of the Sohokai Undergraduate Alumni Association and Soseikai Graduate Alumni Association.

Commencement Rehearsal

REQUIRED for all graduating students

Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2017

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 Learning Solutions before they leave.

Commencement Ceremony

Date: Friday, May 26, 2017

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 Soka 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 March 27. 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 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 requests exceeds allotted seat number.

■ *Alumni*

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

Undergraduate Class of 2017 Representatives

The 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 Speakers

The selection process for Student Commencement Speakers is determined and coordinated by a selection committee with student representatives.

100 and 50 Days to Graduation Celebrations

100 Days

Date: Friday, February 24, 2017

Place: Student Affairs

Time: TBA

50 Days

Date: Friday, April 21, 2017

Place: Student Affairs

Time: TBA

All Soka students are invited to celebrate 100 and 50 days left before Commencement sponsored by the Class Representatives.

Alumni – Student Exchange

Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Place: TBA

Time: TBA

All Soka students are invited to meet and interact with alumni visiting

from around the world for Commencement Week. It is an opportunity to learn what alumni have been up to after graduating from Soka.

Campus Tours

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2017

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.

Undergraduate Appreciation Reception

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2017

Place: Founders Hall 1st Floor Art Gallery

Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

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

Soseikai Graduate School Alumni Luncheon

Date: Friday, May 26, 2017

Place: Ikeda 104-D (Graduate School Office)

Time: 11:30am – 1:30pm

This is a special luncheon sponsored by the Graduate School Alumni for the Class of 2017 graduate students, their friends and family.

Soseikai Graduate School Friends & Family Reception

Date: Friday, May 26, 2017
Place: TBA
Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

This is a special reception to honor the Class of 2017 graduate students, their friends and family (limited to 6 guests per graduate.)

Sohokai Undergraduate Annual Alumni Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 27, 2017
Place: TBA
Time: TBA

New undergraduate alumni members of the Class of 2017 are invited to attend the Sohokai Undergraduate 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 \$40. 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 to enter campus

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 to enter campus

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 to enter campus

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 to enter campus

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 to enter campus

* State Route 73 is a toll road costing up to \$7.61 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) 480-4342 |
| Health Services | (949) 480-4143 |
| Office of Dean of Faculty | (949) 480-4207 |
| Office of Dean of Students | (949) 480-4172 |
| 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 Services | (949) 480-4018 |



SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

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Aliso Viejo, California 92656

(949) 480-4000

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