

Dear Student:

Congratulations! The Office of Admissions and Records indicates that based on the number of hours completed, you may be eligible to participate in the May 2009 Commencement ceremonies of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. All necessary information pertaining to Commencement activities will be sent directly to your campus address around April 1, 2009. However, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some basic information:

CAMPUSWIDE COMMENCEMENT

Because of the large number of graduates, there are two campuswide ceremonies scheduled for Sunday, May 17, in the Assembly Hall. The morning ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the afternoon ceremony at 2:00 p.m.; each will last approximately one and one-half hours. **All guests must present an admission ticket to the campuswide ceremony, however, there is no limit on the number of free tickets a student may request.** Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to fully participate in the campuswide Commencement events may contact the Committee on Commencement by phone, (217) 333-8834 or by e-mail, commencement@uiuc.edu. **Detailed instruction for participation in the Campuswide Commencement can be found at this website: <http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/commencement/2009/student.html>.**

Degree candidates from the College of Fine Arts will be conferred during the afternoon ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC CONVOCATION

In addition to the campuswide ceremonies, the School of Music will host a separate convocation at **5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17, 2009**. This convocation ceremony will not conflict with the campus-wide exercises, allowing students and their families and friends the opportunity to participate in all activities. **Although tickets are NOT required for the School of Music Convocation, advance registration through the School of Music Graduation web site IS REQUIRED for participation. Registration will begin in February 2009, once final details for all May 2009 Commencement activities are confirmed by the Chancellor's Office.**

ADDITIONAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Several other events that may interest you are scheduled for Commencement Weekend. La Casa Cultural Latina, the Native American House, and the African-American Cultural Program will each host a formal congratulatory program Saturday evening. The President and Chancellor will host a reception for all graduates and their families at The President's House on Sunday morning from 8:00-9:30 a.m.

ORDERING CAPS AND GOWNS

A cap and gown are required for participation in Commencement exercises and must be ordered by April 20. Herff Jones has been contracted to provide custom rental academic attire for all graduates. The attire consists of a blue gown with matching mortarboard, a stole of gratitude and a tassel indicating the student's college/field of study. To ensure appropriate attire, students can order academic attire in person at the Illini Union Bookstore, or online via the web at <http://www1.herffjones.com/college/graduation>. Dates and times for ordering will be listed in the instruction booklet sent to students, as well as in the spring class timetable, the student newspaper, and the Commencement web site <http://www.uiuc.edu/commencement>. Announcements may also be ordered through the academic attire web site beginning in January.

HOTEL LOCATION SERVICE

Most hotels begin taking reservations for Commencement Weekend very early and may already be filled in the Champaign-Urbana area. However, the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation operates a hotel/motel clearinghouse, (800)-554-7270, that may be able to assist you with accommodations.

I hope you find this information helpful in making arrangements for Commencement Weekend!

Suzanne Hassler

Coordinator, UI School of Music
Office of Alumni Relations and Development