

What's the Difference Between Commencement and Graduation at UCSC?

Commencement	Graduation
Commencement is a ceremony, where you walk across the stage, symbolizing the end of your undergraduate career.	Graduation is the act of conferring an academic degree – receiving your degree or diploma
You need to register to walk. Each college holds their own separate commencement ceremony. You can apply to walk in a different college's ceremony, however, you have to submit a petition. Visit your college's website for how to register and to get more information.	You need to APPLY for graduation. This means that you are applying for your degree conferral and completion. Applying for graduation is not the same as applying for commencement. These are two SEPARATE applications.
You do not have to be graduating in Spring Quarter in order to apply for commencement.	You apply for graduation in the quarter that you will finish your Undergraduate degree. If you finish in a later quarter, do not apply for graduation.

Confused about the graduation and commencement process or have questions? If you have questions about graduation, contact your **college academic advisor**. If you have questions about commencement, contact your **College Programs Office**.

For more information about commencement and graduation, please visit the following links below:

- [Commencement 2020 Calendar](#)
- [Kresge College Commencement Details](#)
- [Commencement Checklist](#)
- [Applying to Graduate](#)
- [Bay Tree Bookstore Graduation Center](#)