

Frequently Asked Questions about Graduation:

When can I order my Cap and Gown?

From Monday, February 25 through Friday, April 12, 2019 no later than 4:00 p.m. Orders will be placed online and the link will be sent to via email upon submitting your graduation petition.

How much does it cost?

\$50, which includes: 1.) Cap and Gown 2.) Admission tickets for you to give to your family or friends, 3.) Reception after the ceremony for the graduates and their guests. Students may purchase their cap and gown utilizing a credit card or debit card with a credit card logo.

When is graduation?

There will be two commencement ceremonies on Saturday, June 8, 2019. (Graduates must arrive an hour before the assigned ceremony begins.)

How long does the ceremony last?

Usually a little less than two hours -- but will vary depending on how many graduates there are, and how long the guest speaker speaks.

When is rehearsal?

Graduation rehearsal will take place Friday, June 7, 2019, and will last less than an hour. Graduates MUST attend rehearsal if they wish to participate in commencement on Saturday. A rehearsal time will be assigned depending on your major and emailed to you around late May. Make sure to check your email.

How many tickets will I get?

We won't know until after the graduates order their caps and gowns how many are actually planning to go through the ceremony. (The ceremony is in the gym, which has limited capacity.) If you order a cap and gown, you will receive an email late May give you more details on tickets, rehearsal, and ceremony. Based on previous experience, we estimate that graduates participating in the commencement ceremony can expect to receive between three and four tickets each to give to their guests. (Everyone must have a ticket, including children. On the day of graduation, no one will be allowed inside the gym without a ticket.)

Can I get extra tickets?

Unfortunately, no. The college almost always uses up all available tickets. Your best chance is if you have a friend who is also graduating who doesn't need all of his/her tickets.

When will I get my cap and gown and my tickets?

Tickets will be distributed with the caps and gowns. You will receive an email late May telling you the dates you can pick them up.

Can I supply my own gown, from high school or somewhere else?

NO! All graduates who wish to participate in the commencement ceremony must use the gowns provided by the college. Gowns can vary in colors, materials, and styles; it would look very unprofessional for us to have graduates marching who did not match.

Can I keep my cap and gown?

Yes. The cap and gown is yours to keep.

Can I decorate my cap?

Yes, caps may be decorated but must be done so in a tasteful manner. Any graduate with a cap with vulgarity, drug or alcohol paraphernalia will not be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony. Decorations must not hang from the cap and must be confined to the circumference of the cap.

Will there be a photographer?

Yes. The college brings in a professional photographer who will take a photo of each graduate receiving his/her diploma. He will also be available to take photos of graduates and their families in a decorated area after the ceremony, if you choose. You will not need to pay that day. You will receive a small sample proof in the mail a couple of weeks after the ceremony. If you like it, you may order photos. There is no obligation -- if you don't like the proof, you don't have to order. You and your guests may also take your own photos before, during, and after graduation; however, guests will not be able to get very close to the stage during the actual ceremony.

Can my family videotape graduation?

Yes. However, there are no special places reserved for still or video photographers; they must photograph from their seat, and they may not block the view of any other guests. NO TRIPODS ALLOWED! Additionally, the ceremony will be broadcast online through the College's main website: www.imperial.edu

Why don't you allow balloons in the gym?

Balloons block the view of other guests in the audience. The gym is very crowded during the ceremony; your family should leave balloons and other gifts at home or in the car, to give to you AFTER the ceremony.

What if I, or one of my guests is in a wheelchair; will there be a handicapped seating area or special accommodations available?

Yes. If you expect to have a guest attending the ceremony in a wheelchair, or who otherwise needs special accommodations, please tell us (contact Miriam Trejo) in advance so that we can plan sufficient space for them. This area will be pointed out at graduation rehearsal. Also please let us know in advance if you, the graduate, need assistance or special accommodation for the ceremony (such as help getting up and down the ramp to the stage).

What if I, or one of my guests, am hearing impaired?

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will translate virtually all of the ceremony. Please contact Miriam Trejo if you have further questions.

I have other questions about graduation. Who can I talk to?

Contact Student Services Specialist, Miriam Trejo at (760) 355-6358 or Student Affairs Administrative Secretary, Saria Cardoza at (760) 355-6455.