College of Arts and Letters

Commencement Ceremony
When: Friday, May 11, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
Where: Viejas Arena
The processional will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Rehearsal
When: Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Viejas Arena
Faculty only, there is no student rehearsal

Entrance to Viejas Arena

Candidates must access Lot 13 (north of Viejas Arena) from the ground level, across from Parking Structure 12. All guests must access Viejas Arena through the main entrance gates. Due to stringent security measures, all students participating in commencement are required to present their RedID or a valid, government-issued picture ID in order to be admitted to Viejas Arena. Students who do not bring valid ID will not be allowed to participate in commencement.

Processional

No later than 8:45 a.m., bachelor’s and master’s candidates must arrive to Lot 13 and line up behind their respective department signs. Faculty marshals and student ushers will organize the processional lines.

MFA and PhD candidates must report to the robing room inside Viejas Arena no later than 8:45 a.m. and will be seated on stage as members of the platform party.

The processional will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.
**Inclement Weather**

In case of rain, candidates should arrive to Lot 13, across from Parking Structure 12, at least 45 minutes before the processional start time, unless otherwise noted for your college.

Once candidates enter through security and show their RedID, they will proceed directly inside Viejas Arena where they will be seated according to their department.

**Tickets and Seating**

To ensure orderly entrance to Viejas Arena, all guests ages one (1) year of age and older must have tickets. Candidates may pick up complimentary, reserved seat tickets during GradFest in Montezuma Hall at the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union, March 20-22, from 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Beginning Friday, March 23, students who did not claim commencement tickets at GradFest will obtain them at the Viejas Arena Ticket Office. If a student does not claim tickets by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 27, the ticket office cannot guarantee the student will receive the full number of commencement tickets. Beginning Monday, April 30, the ticket office will distribute any available remaining tickets. These tickets will be distributed two-at-a-time on a first-come, first-served basis based on a designated day according to college. The ticket distribution schedule by college will be available in March.

**Ceremony**

Dean Norma Bouchard will preside over the ceremony, which will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and last approximately two hours.

*All graduates and guests should remain seated until the ceremony is concluded by the Grand Marshal.*

Graduates will exit Viejas Arena at floor level and guests will exit from the top gates. Guests will not be able to enter the arena floor. Please do not congregate in front of the arena exits.

**Photography**

Guests must remain seated until the conclusion of the ceremony. You will not be allowed to stand in the aisles or block the views of others in order to take photos or videos. Camera tripods are not allowed in Viejas Arena. There will be ample time after each ceremony to take photographs on campus with a wide variety of backdrops.

*Graduation portrait photographers will be available during GradFest, March 20-22.*
GradImages Photography will take photographs of each graduate on stage during the commencement ceremonies. Each graduate will be sent no-obligation proofs of the commencement photographs via email and text after the event. Proofs will also be sent via postal mail. You will have the opportunity to purchase prints after you have seen your proofs. At the ceremony, please ensure that you provide correct email and mailing information on the card you bring to stage from which your name will be announced.

Prior to the ceremony, graduates can also pre-register by visiting www.gradimages.com and clicking on “Pre-Event Email Registration.” There you will enter your email address and up to six emails for others to view and order your photos.

If you have any questions about your commencement ceremony photographs, please visit www.gradimages.com/sandiegostateuniversity or call toll-free 1-800-261-2576.

**Departmental Ceremonies and Receptions**

The departmental ceremony and reception schedule will soon be available.

**Disability Access**

Please call Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473 for assistance for candidates with mobility or hearing difficulties or other disabilities.

If you have further questions, please contact:

Michelle Lenoue
assistnt@mail.sdsu.edu
(619) 594-2333