

Law Commencement 2024 FAQs

General Event Information

What is the Commencement format?

Santa Clara Law will host a traditional Commencement ceremony in Leavey Center on the Santa Clara University campus. The Commencement stage crossing will *not* be livestreamed.

Law Commencement Liturgical Mass & Celebration of Spirit and Excellence

Friday, May 17, 2024

4:00 pm in the Mission Church

5:00 pm Reception and Awards in the Mission Gardens

Law Commencement Ceremony

Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 9:00 am in the Leavey Center

Reception to follow immediately after in Locatelli Center and surrounding lawns

What time will the Commencement gates open?

Gates will open at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2024.

How long is the Commencement ceremony?

The Ceremony should last approximately 2 hours.

What items are prohibited?

- Alcoholic beverages
- Animals (except approved service dogs)
- Balloons (latex, mylar, etc.)
- Beach balls/frisbees
- Coolers
- Drones
- Glass bottles
- Illegal substances, drugs, or chemicals of any kind
- Laser pointers
- Noisemakers/Air Horns
- Signs larger than 3' x 3'
- Streamers and confetti
- Tripods or large commercial video cameras

- Umbrellas
- Weapons of any kind
- Any other item deemed unacceptable, offensive, and/or hazardous by security

Will graduates be professionally photographed?

Graduates will have their photo taken by a professional photographer from [GradImages](#) as they cross the stage. These digital proofs will be emailed to graduates after Commencement with the opportunity to purchase photos.

Will there be a flower vendor on campus for Commencement?

An SCU-approved vendor, Rosies & Posies Downtown, will sell a small selection of flowers on campus before the Commencement ceremony and donate 20% of the proceeds to the Santa Clara Law Student Bar Association. You can choose from a larger variety of gifts by [pre-ordering online](#) and picking up your order before the ceremony on Saturday, May 18th.

Pre-order Instructions

Once you have chosen your graduate's gift, select the delivery option and proceed to check out. Under "Special Instructions," please note that you will be picking up your order at the Santa Clara Law Commencement on 05/18/2024.

Are guests allowed to bring water into Commencement?

Guests may bring an empty reusable water bottle and/or a clear, unopened water bottle to the ceremony. Water filling stations will be made available to guests at Commencement. All graduates will have a small unopened bottle of water at the base of their chair at Commencement.

Will there be a Campus Liturgy before Commencement?

Yes. At the law school, graduates and their families are invited to participate in the Santa Clara Law Celebration of Spirit and Excellence. This program includes a Law Liturgy on Friday, May 17th at 4:00 p.m. at the Mission Church and a Dean's Award and Celebration of our graduates in the beautiful Mission Gardens. All are welcome to attend.

Event Preparedness

What are the suggested preparedness measures for emergencies?

An emergency evacuation plan will be shared before the event begins. This will include a visual of the routes and a brief explanation.

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Visiting guests of the University are strongly encouraged to subscribe to [SCU Bronco Alerts](#) for the duration of your stay, you may do so with the keyword below. Note, that this subscription will automatically expire after 5 days.

From your smartphone, text "SCUEVENTS" to **226787** (CAMPUS) to receive alerts from SCU Bronco Alert

Message and data rates may apply. Text messages are sent on an as-needed basis. This service is provided per the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy at Rave Mobile Safety. Text STOP to all messages or HELP for tech support.

Admission & Tickets

How many tickets do graduates receive?

Each graduate will receive eight (8) guest tickets for the Commencement ceremony. Should you need additional guest tickets, we suggest you ask other graduates if they have tickets they don't plan to utilize.

How do graduates get their Commencement GradPass and Guest Ticket(s)?

In March, eligible graduates will receive an email from lawgraduation@scu.edu detailing how to obtain their GradPass and Guest Ticket(s) via MarchingOrder. Graduates will be required to provide their guests' names and email addresses. Guests can access their tickets via email and must have a screenshot or printed copy of their ticket to be admitted to the ceremony.

Do all guests need tickets to be admitted?

All guests are required to have valid tickets printed or available on their mobile devices. Tickets will be distributed by graduates to their loved ones for use on the day of commencement. Children 2 and under *do not* require a ticket.

ADA Compliance

Will there be ADA seating?

ADA seating is available around the concourse and on the ground level of Leavey Center. Elevators are available for use to access ground-level seating. These seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. It is highly recommended that guests arrive when the gates open at 7:30 a.m.

Questions regarding ADA compliance may be directed to lawgraduation@scu.edu.

Where can I find ADA parking?

ADA parking is available in the Leavey Lot. Guests who park in any of the marked disabled parking spots are responsible for bringing their Disabled Person (DP) placards or valid DP license plate.

For guests attending the Celebration of Spirit and Excellence in the Mission Church & Gardens, shuttle service will be available for guests requiring accommodations and may be accompanied by one person.

Please bring wheelchairs and walkers as needed as we are unable to provide wheelchairs to our guests at this time.

Parking & Directions

Where should I park?

Parking on the SCU Campus during Law Commencement is complimentary for graduates and their guests. However, both standard parking and ADA parking will be severely impacted due to the large crowds expected, so please arrive early to Commencement events.

We strongly recommend using rideshare (Uber/Lyft) or carpooling to campus, if possible. To access the rideshare drop-off area, please enter the University through the main entrance at 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053, and stay to the right.

Approved guest parking lots on Commencement weekend are:

- Main Campus Parking Structure - 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053
- Leavey Lot - Leavey Event Center, Santa Clara, CA 95053 (ADA Parking)

For Graduates

I am receiving my MBA. Do I cross the stage twice?

Students with multiple degrees will be recognized in their respective Commencement Programs. JD/MBA students may choose to opt in for the Business School ceremony. More information can be found on the [University Commencement webpage](#).

When will I receive my diploma?

On stage, you will receive your diploma cover. If you have no holds on your account and successfully return your rented academic attire, your diploma will be mailed to you by [the Office of the Registrar](#) once the completion of academic requirements has been verified. Mailings begin 3-4 months after the degree completion date.

How do I obtain Academic Attire?

The [SCU Bronco Bookstore](#) rents Academic Attire for law graduates. Please visit or call directly

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for availability at (408) 554-2356. You can expect to pick up your attire no earlier than the first week of May. Please note, that attire must be returned to the bookstore in the days following commencement. Failure to do so will result in a delay/hold of receipt of your diploma.

How do I obtain regalia accessories?

All cords and stoles, except Honors Cords and JD/MBA stoles, are purchased and provided by Law Student Organizations, you may contact your representative for more information. Honors Cords will be given to eligible students upon check-in on Commencement day.

The red Santa Clara University stole is *optional* for law graduates and available for purchase from the Bronco Bookstore.

Alumni Affairs

How do I update my contact information to stay involved with Alumni Affairs?

For all career and personal updates (e.g. email, home address, job, etc.), please connect with Law External Relations at lawalumni@scu.edu, or call 408-551-1748.