

Graduation FAQ's

What is the difference between "graduation" and "commencement?"

"Graduation" is the conferral of your degree, which includes recording your degree on your transcript and issuing a diploma. Your degree will be recorded only after you have satisfied all of your program's academic requirements, submitted an *Application for Graduation*, and paid the application fee. The degree date will be the one related to the term in which all of these criteria have been met (see below).

"Commencement" is the graduation ceremony. To be eligible to participate in the spring 2010 commencement, you must be either:

1. A fall 2009 graduate, spring 2010 graduate; or a summer 2010 degree candidate.
2. A summer 2010 candidate must have no more than fifteen (15) undergraduate units or twelve (12) graduate units remaining in the summer 2010 term.

You may participate in the ceremony without having completed all of your academic requirements. However, being allowed to participate does not mean you have graduated. You must pay all outstanding tuition and fees two weeks prior to commencement to be eligible to participate.

Why does Golden Gate University charge students to graduate?

Many universities charge their students a graduation/commencement fee. Some charge the student at the beginning of his or her degree program, while others add the cost to the student's tuition and do not charge a specific fee. Golden Gate University assesses a fee to students when they apply for graduation so only those students who are graduating absorb the cost.

Do I have to apply for graduation and pay the fee if I do not want to participate in commencement?

Every student must apply for graduation and pay the fee whether or not they participate in commencement. GGU will not waive the fee or part of the fee if you decide to not participate. (EMBA students must submit an Application for Graduation but do not need to pay the fee, as it's included in their tuition.)

What does the fee cover?

- Review of your academic progress and any necessary updates (substitutions, etc.)
- One diploma with cover and scroll
- One transcript
- Regalia (i.e., cap, gown, tassel etc.) which is yours to keep
- Commencement program
- Other commencement-related expenses, such as hall rental, refreshments, decorations, etc.

Where can I get more information?

The Golden Gate University web site at: www.ggu.edu/student_services/records_and_registration_services/graduation.

Questions regarding graduation:
Records and Registration
(415) 442-7200
graduation@ggu.edu

Questions regarding the commencement ceremony:
Student Affairs
(415) 442-7288
commencement@ggu.edu