

INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO WALK ONLY REQUESTS AND PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & MEDIA
INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO “WALK-ONLY”
REQUESTS**

Rationale

Commencement is a high and important occasion during which university degrees are conferred upon those students who have completed degree requirements. Having one’s name called at commencement and walking across the platform to receive the symbol of a diploma is, for most students, the high point of the ceremony, the point at which their personal achievement receives the most recognition from family, friends, and the general public.

A student who is requesting to “walk-only” is making an extraordinary request, one which can rarely be granted and which, realistically, should rarely be made. It is a request to participate in an exclusive ceremony and receive recognition for something that has not yet been accomplished. A student’s expectation that degree requirements will soon be met is, for the most part, beside the point; at the time of any commencement ceremony, there are hundreds of other students in the university who are close to receiving degrees, but who have yet to complete degree requirements. The purpose of the commencement ceremony is to confer degrees upon and recognize graduates. The commencement ceremony cannot become something other or less than that.

Guidelines:

Since the “walk-only” request is not a routine or expected request, the guidelines are few.

1. The reason for the request must be extraordinary and compelling and may not merely be based on matters of convenience, preference, and/or results of the student’s choice.

Some reasons for a “walk-only” request that would not qualify as extraordinary and compelling are:

- I prefer the May commencement to the August commencement.
- I am beginning a new job in August and cannot come to the commencement.
- I have a family member or members who can only attend the upcoming commencement (for any number of stated reasons)
- I will be travelling, or getting married, or attending a wedding, etc., and I cannot attend the commencement for which I qualify.
- I was confused about what courses I needed to take my last semester—and so I did not graduate.
- I only need 3 more hours to graduate.

Examples of circumstances that would qualify:

- A documented, terminal illness on the part of the student or an immediate family member (this is not a joke)
- A call-up for military activation

2. If the student is lacking more than 6 credit hours to finish, most requests will not even be considered.

Thank you for understanding the nature and importance of the commencement ceremony and the intentions of the college to protect its integrity for everyone.

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This form is to be completed for students who have applied to graduate (undergraduate or graduate) for a specific term but will be unable to complete the degree requirements within their term of application.

This completed form represents the academic dean’s approval to allow a student to participate in the commencement ceremonies when deficient grade points in any academic area (major/minor/overall cumulative/SH overall) and/or when deficient courses required for the degree.

Form may be completed by student, and routed to the Academic Dean.

- All students must submit a formal application to the Registrar’s Office prior to submitting this form to the Academic Dean and Registrar.

Student Name: _____ Sam ID: _____

I respectfully request permission from my academic dean to participate in the commencement ceremony for (term) _____. My reason(s) for this request are:

- I understand I will be required to submit a new application for degree in the term for which I intend to complete my degree requirements in full.
- I understand the application fee paid for this current term of graduation will not be refunded, nor will it be applied to a future term application.
- I understand I will be required to pay the fee for application as is valid for the term of my new application, including late fee if applicable.

- Approved
- Denied

Student Signature Date

Academic Dean’s Signature Date

Note:

Students will be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony if academic dean approval is granted **and** the application for degree has been completed.