



**SUBJECT: 2020 COMMENCEMENT UPDATE**

**DATE: March 13, 2020**

**Last Major Issue Regarding Commencement on the Field Solved**

To hold Commencement on Koret Field, we use contractors to build the stage, set up the sound system, and place the chairs on the field. Representatives from Athletics have met with these contractors and are satisfied that the contractors can do their work in a way that will not damage the field. Therefore, we are moving forward with plans to hold Commencement on the field, but with some further limitations to protect the field and our guests and with the reservation that the coronavirus situation may require additional changes.

*Limitations for Commencement Participants and Guests*

To protect the field and for added security, NDNU will implement the following limitations for both participants and guests at Commencement:

- Only flat-soled shoes, no high heels.
- NDNU will provide water bottles for those who do not bring their own water. No food or drink other than water will be allowed.
- Clear bags only for any items brought in. (No backpacks, large purses, or similar items.)
- No strollers, tripods, umbrellas, etc. Wheelchairs and walkers OK.

Guests will park at Oracle and the above will be checked before they board the bus. Further information will be available at Grad Finale, on the Commencement website, and on social media.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Commencement**

Nationally and especially locally, large gatherings of people are being cancelled to slow the spread of COVID-19. NDNU just announced that we are responding to COVID-19 by moving classes online until at least April 5. The university is following the guidance of local and national authorities, including the San Mateo County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control. Given current conditions and projections for the spread of the virus, it is highly likely that the planned Commencement on the Koret Field may not be possible and that Commencement will take some form other than a large gathering. NDNU will wait to see how things develop before making a decision. Please plan and set expectations with this possibility in mind. For updated information, please refer to the Commencement page on the NDNU website.

We pledge to keep you informed regarding this evolving situation.

Sincerely,

Dan Carey  
Interim President