



LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE

1600 West Imperial Highway • Los Angeles, CA 90047-4899 • Los Angeles Community College District

FIFTIETH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Los Angeles Southwest College • COUGAR FIELD • Tuesday, June 6, 2017 • 4:00 p.m.

Dear Student

Congratulations! You are invited to participate in the 50th Annual Commencement Ceremony on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 4:00pm at Cougar Field. Please read this letter carefully as it contains important information about what to do before and during the Commencement Ceremony. Additional information about the ceremony can be found at the Los Angeles Southwest College website: <http://www.lasc.edu/news/Commencement/LASC-Commencement-2017.html>.

The commencement theme is “Breaking Barriers and Building Futures.”

Conferring of Degrees

Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) awards the Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.), and Associate of Science for Transfer (A.S.-T.) degrees in selected curricula to indicate the satisfactory completion of 60 or more units of course credits. The Counseling Office and the Office of Admissions & Records will evaluate all petitions for graduation to determine eligibility for the A.A., A.S., or A.S-T. degrees. Students who applied for the summer and fall degrees have been evaluated and awarded, thus they are classified as graduates. Students who applied for the spring 2016 degree will be evaluated once the spring 2016 final grades have been submitted, thus they are classified as candidates for graduation.

Graduates and candidates for graduation will receive a diploma cover at the Commencement Ceremony to symbolize the conferring of a degree. Once final grades have been reviewed and applied to transcripts, the Office of Admissions & Records will send a letter to students indicating that degrees are ready and may be picked up at LASC in the Admissions & Records Office. Your degree will also be posted on your official Los Angeles Southwest College transcript.

Class Rings

If you plan on purchasing a Class Ring, stop by the LASC College Store for information or you may call the LASC College Store at 323-241-5091.

Photography

Los Angeles Southwest College is arranging for a professional photographer to be present on campus before and during Commencement to take individual and/or group pictures of graduates. These professional pictures may be purchased from the company.

Academic Attire

Graduates will wear black gowns, with the exception of nursing students, who will wear white gowns. The College Store will have a list containing names of graduates and candidates for graduation as well as what color robe they should purchase.

- Associate of Arts/ Science Degree Black gown
- Nursing Degree White gown

Caps and gowns will be available for purchase in the College Store for **\$29.00** plus tax and are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Popular sizes sell out quickly. Class of 2017 Sashes are available for purchase for **\$23.99**. LASC Graduate Hybrid Sashes are available for purchase for **\$29.99**. Please stop by the College Store if you want to see the difference in the two sashes. Announcements are sold in packages of 10 for **\$6.95** plus tax. The announcements **are not** personalized. To avoid disappointment and a last-minute rush, make your purchases early. The College Store will **not** accept personal checks. Only cash or credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card) may be used for purchases.

IMPORTANT! Do not decorate or alter your gown. If you deface your gown, you will not be allowed to participate in the Commencement Ceremony.

Commencement Honors

Academic Honors are determined through the fall 2016 cumulative grade point average. Summer 2016 and fall 2016 graduates are eligible for Academic Honors. (Academic Honors for spring 2017 graduates will be represented on student transcripts as well as on degrees once final grades are posted.) The College is governed by the National Honors Society to issue Academic Honors at the Commencement Ceremony in the following manner:

- 3.30 – 3.59 Cum Laude
- 3.60 – 3.79 Magna Cum Laude
- 3.80 – 4.00 Summa Cum Laude

Honor Society Students:

Members of Phi Theta Kappa Academic Honor Society (Beta Pi Omega Chapter) may purchase gold cords and tassels at www.recognitions.ptk.org/index.php/graduation.html/ to wear during the Commencement ceremony. To inquire about membership to this prestigious academic honor society, please contact Professor Jeffrey Bohn at bohnjl@lasc.edu.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Summer 2016 and Fall 2016 graduates with the highest grade point average in their graduating class are categorized as follows (final grades through the fall 2016 term are used to determine the grade point average):

- Valedictorian – Graduate with the highest grade-point average for the summer 2016 and fall 2016 graduates.
- Salutatorian – Graduate with the second-highest grade point average for the summer 2016 and fall 2016 graduates.

Guests at Commencement

Los Angeles Southwest College graduates are encouraged to invite family members and friends to attend the Commencement Ceremony. Remember, the ceremony will be at the Los Angeles Southwest College Cougar Field – prime seating is limited and parking lots will fill up quickly, so we encourage guests to arrive early.

PARKING

There is no charge for parking on the day of Commencement. Arrive early and allow enough time for parking and travel to your seats. All available parking lots will be open for graduates and guest parking on graduation day. There will be no reserved parking with the exception of vehicles with a disabled placard. Do not park in spaces marked for disabled guests if you do not have a disabled placard.

Commencement Rehearsal

All graduation participants **MUST** attend a Commencement Rehearsal to become familiar with procedures and etiquette for the ceremony.

The Commencement rehearsal dates are as follows:

- Thursday, June 1, 2017 1:00 p.m. Foyer of the Student Services Building
- Monday, June 5, 2017 4:00 p.m. Foyer of the Student Services Building

IMPORTANT! All graduates and candidates for graduation must attend one of the rehearsal sessions to be eligible for participation in the Commencement Ceremony.

Robing of Graduates

All graduates and candidates for graduation must report to the south side of the Student Services Building at 1:30 p.m. on graduation day. Check-in will begin promptly at 1:50 p.m. Please report to the Student Services Building in Academic Attire (Cap and Gown) for check in.

Graduation gowns should be neatly pressed. Please remove your gown from the package a few days before the ceremony and make sure it is ironed or pressed. Again, please do not deface your gown. If you decorate or alter your gown you will not be allowed to participate in the Commencement Ceremony.

Please arrange to have your possessions taken care of prior to the Processional Assembly. No personal belongings, purses, coats, etc. may be left in the Student Services Building. Female students are advised not to wear high heels during the ceremony due to the uneven nature of the track and field. Flats and wedges are the only acceptable shoes allowed on the field.

Commencement Processional

The student Processional Assembly will begin on the south side of the Student Services Building near the College Store entrance. College staff will be on hand to help arrange students and answer any questions. The graduating class will be led to Cougar Field wearing caps and gowns and carrying only their name cards. Before the procession there will be a short, final briefing on Commencement protocol (e.g. where to stand, what to do, etc.). Please plan to stay for the entire ceremony. **Early exiting will not be permitted.**

If you have any questions or concerns, call the **Office of Student Services** at (323) 241-5298.

On behalf of Los Angeles Southwest College, congratulations on your achievement!

Sincerely,

Dr. Howard Irvin, Jr.
Vice President of Student Services
Los Angeles Southwest College

*For information on joining the alumni network, please follow this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H7VPG7X>