



College of Fine Arts

CONVOCATION 2021

Class of 2020 and Class of 2021

2021 College of Fine Arts Convocation Frequently Asked Questions

Rice Eccles Stadium, University of Utah – May 7 @ 2:30pm

(Updates 04/20/21 - will be indicated in green font)

Updates 5/5/21 - will be indicated in purple font)

- **What graduation events will be taking place this year?**
 - This year, University Commencement will be held virtually @ 7pm on May 6th and the College of Fine Arts Convocation ceremony will be a live, socially-distanced event held May 7th @ 2:30pm in Rice Eccles Stadium. In order to provide a socially-distanced event, a ticket is required to attend the College of Fine Arts Convocation.
- **What is the difference between Commencement & Convocation?**
 - Traditionally, Commencement is a University-wide event where all graduates can gather to celebrate their graduation. Convocations are hosted by each college individually, and are where students typically “walk” to receive their diploma cover.
- **When will I receive my diploma?**
 - During Convocation, graduating students will receive a cover for their diplomas. Official diploma certificates will be mailed from the Office of the Registrar to student graduates within three months of graduation.
- **Do I need a ticket to attend the Convocation Ceremony?**
 - Yes - due to health restrictions, the CFA Convocation Ceremony will be a socially-distanced event and attendance is limited. All graduates will need to have a ticket to enter the stadium. [Information about how to register for a ticket was sent via e-mail.](#) [You can also access a step-by-step guide here.](#)
- **Can I have guests attend the ceremony?**
 - At this point in time, the University is allowing each graduating student to bring **four** guests to the ceremony. All attendees (graduates and their guests) must have a ticket to enter the stadium. [Click here to access an instruction guide that explains how to register for and transfer guest tickets.](#)
- **How can additional family members and friends participate in their student’s graduation?**
 - A link to the live-stream of the ceremony will be provided on the CFA website prior to the event. We encourage our students’ additional family and friends to participate virtually and then celebrate safely with their graduate after the ceremony.
- **I graduated in 2020, can I participate in the 2021 CFA Convocation ceremony?**
 - Yes! We want all of our students who would like to have the opportunity to “walk” to do so. If you graduated in 2020 and would like to participate in the Spring 2021 ceremony, please check your uMail. Information on how to register for tickets will be sent to all students who have applied for graduation in 2020 (Fall ’19, Spring ’20, and Summer ’20 terms) or 2021 (Fall ’20, Spring ’21, and Summer ’21 terms).
- **How do I pick up my ticket?**
 - Tickets will be electronic, and you will need to download it to your phone. [They are downloadable/transferable immediately after you have registered for them.](#)

- **Is there a deadline to register for tickets?**
 - We are requesting that all students register for **tickets prior to 11:59pm on Sunday, May 2nd** so that we can plan enough seating for our graduates.
- **What time should graduating students participating in Convocation arrive?**
 - CFA Graduates should arrive at Rice Eccles Stadium by 2:00 pm. You will enter on the East Side of the stadium, and will need to maintain 6 feet of distance from other graduates and guests.
- **What if I am late?**
 - If you are late, you will be admitted with your ticket and you will join the other graduates where they are already seated.
- **How long will the ceremony last?**
 - The program will last approximately an hour & a half. There will be some short remarks by various individuals, and then the graduates will be presented their degrees. Due to time constraints and COVID-19 protocols, there will not be a traditional Processional or Recessional.
- **Will I be able to “walk” with my friend(s)?**
 - Students in the College of Fine Arts will graduate with their fellow undergraduate or graduate students. Graduates don’t have to be arranged alphabetically, and seats will be “general admission.”
- **Where will I sit during the ceremony?**
 - Graduate students will be in socially-distanced chairs on the field.
 - Most Undergraduate students will be seated on the field, and overflow will be in the stands of the stadium, appropriately socially-distanced.
 - All students “walk” to receive their diploma cover and then return to their own seat or a seat nearby.
- **Is there a required dress code for graduates?**
 - All those graduating should wear their cap & gown, which can be purchased at the University Campus Store. There is no specific dress code for what is worn beneath the cap & gown, but graduates should dress appropriately for the weather and the occasion.
 - Also, due to COVID-19 protocols, masks will be required of everyone attending the ceremony.
- **I’m a graduate student receiving my degree. Will I be “hooded” during the ceremony?**
 - Due to COVID-19 protocols, a traditional hooding ceremony will not take place. Graduate students who are receiving their degree should come already wearing their hoods.
- **What about graduates or guests with disabilities?**
 - A designated seating area in the venue will be available for guests with disabilities and limited mobility. Seats are limited, and are on a first-come basis. Please ask stadium ushers for directions to the reserved area after you have been admitted to the stadium.
 - Any graduating students who will need accommodations for themselves should notify Cami Rives at c.rives@utah.edu as soon as possible.
- **Where should I park?**
 - Graduating students from the College of Fine Arts are able to park in the East side of the stadium parking lot, and additional parking is available in the lots on [this map](#).

Other information:

- **What about photographs?**
 - A commercial photographer will be present to photograph all graduates. You will be asked to fill out name cards for the photographer, but you are under no obligation to purchase pictures.
- **Can I bring a bag or purse?**
 - Graduates won't have a place to keep a bag or purse, so it is generally best to not bring one. Any bags that are brought in to the stadium will be searched by security staff, and you will need to carry them with you when you "walk" since you won't be returning to the same seat that you left. **Guests bringing bags are requested to have clear bags to reduce the amount of touchpoints.**
- **What if it rains?**
 - Convocation will proceed – rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, graduates and guests will be allowed to bring umbrellas into the stadium. However, remember that there will not be a place to keep the umbrella when you "walk."
- **Will my name be pronounced correctly?**
 - Each graduate will fill out a "reader card" that has your name on it. The announcer will read your name as it is listed on your reader card. If you have a difficult-to-pronounce name, please spell it phonetically so the announcers can tell how it is supposed to be pronounced.
- **Will my preferred name be listed on my diploma when I receive it?**
 - The Registrar's Office is moving toward having preferred first names and accented characters on the diplomas that are mailed out this year. Please email Graduation at graduation@sa.utah.edu by April 27, 2021 if you would like to have your preferred first name or accented characters on your diploma.
- **Will there be a paper program-of-the-day?**
 - Due to the logistics of the ceremony, paper copies of the program will not be available. Digital versions of the program will be available to download both during and after the event. Note that only students who have officially applied for graduation will be listed in the program.
- **What if I can't attend the in-person ceremony?**
 - To help us celebrate far-and-wide and to accommodate those who cannot make the live, in-person convocation ceremony, the College of Fine Arts is also producing digital celebrations. These will include remarks from Dean John Scheib, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Student Affairs Liz Leckie, our student convocation speaker, and a couple surprise guests. Watch [The Finer Points blog](#) for these and other ways to celebrate our graduates from wherever you are.
- **What if I submitted a photo for the virtual CFA Convocation?**
 - We had previously asked for photos of graduates (and thank you to those who submitted), but we no longer need those since we will have the opportunity for students to be recognized individually during the in-person event.
- **What do I do after graduation?**
 - Go out and change the world as the dynamic creative professional you are,
 - And keep us posted on your successes (Facebook: U of U College of Fine Arts Alumni, Instagram: @uofuCFAalumni)!

Please continue to check your uMail for updated information. We will also update the CFA website <https://www.finearts.utah.edu/students/convocation> as more details about this event are finalized.