

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR Ph.D. DEGREE CANDIDATES

Programs

PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY WILL BE FOUND ON YOUR CHAIR WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE CEREMONY AREA. Please do not carry a program or other items in the procession; also, please leave your program on your chair when you go to the platform to receive your degree.

Processional

KNOW THE NUMBER OF THE ROW YOU ARE IN AND CHECK TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ENTER THAT ROW IN THE SEATING AREA. YOUR CHAIR WILL HAVE A CARD ON IT WITH YOUR NAME.

REMAIN STANDING WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT YOUR CHAIR UNTIL DR. DAVID THOMPSON ASKS THE AUDIENCE TO BE SEATED.

Ceremony

After the opening remarks, Commencement address by Walter Massey, Glee Club musical interlude, and the awarding of the Bachelor's and Master's degrees, DEAN CHAN will come to the microphone and say:

"Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy."

ALL Ph.D. CANDIDATES SHOULD RISE AND STAND IN PLACE.

Dean Chan will then say:

"For not fewer than three years of graduate residence, these candidates have made advanced studies and independent original investigations. These candidates, by passing a final oral examination and presenting the results of their research in a thesis, have satisfied the Faculty that they have met all the requirements for the doctorate at the California Institute of Technology. Mr. President, I present these candidates, and those in absentia whose names appear in the program but will not be read, for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy."

President Rosenbaum will reply:

"You have completed the highest degree awarded by this Institute. Therefore, by the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees of the California Institute of Technology, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and admit you to all its rights, privileges, and responsibilities. I commend you on your high accomplishment and welcome you to the company of scholars."

PhD DEGREES WILL BE AWARDED BY DIVISION – IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. Biology and Biological Engineering (Dr. Sternberg)
2. Chemistry and Chemical Engineering (Dr. Reisman)
3. Engineering and Applied Science (Dr. Atwater)
4. Geological and Planetary Sciences (Dr. Eiler)
5. Humanities and Social Sciences (Dr. Dennison)
6. Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy (Dr. Harrison)

(continued on reverse)

PhD candidates then proceed to the ramp on the east side of the steps, alphabetically in order by Division, row after row, single file. Have your Reader Cards in hand. You will be asked if you have them. If you do not, you will be directed fill out a replacement. Hand one Reader Card to Michael Alexander at the foot of the ramp. Your second Reader Card in hand, proceed to the top of the ramp. At this point, you carry your hood draped over your forearm. At the top of the ramp, hand your second Reader Card to the Christy Jenstad. Place your hands in a prayer position with the hood resting over your hands. The loop at the neck will face toward you and the colored silk portion of the hood will also face inward, toward you. Christy Jenstad will assist you in changing the position of your hood.

When the Division Chair reads your name:

1. Step to Dr. David Thompson and outstretch your arms. Dr. David Thompson will take your hood from you.
2. Turn and face the audience.
3. Take off your cap with your right hand.
4. After the hood is placed on you by Dr. David Thompson, replace your cap.
5. Turn and face President Rosenbaum. Take your packet from President Rosenbaum with your left hand and shake hands with President Rosenbaum with your right hand.

Exit the stage via the ramp on the west side of the stage and proceed to the waiting photographer. After having your photo taken, you will be directed to the Registrar's table to receive your actual diploma. You will then be directed back to your seat. Sit down immediately.

THE NEXT CANDIDATE IN LINE SHOULD COME TO A PAUSE ON THE TOP OF THE RAMP AND WAIT FOR THEIR TURN TO HAND THE DIVISION CHAIR THEIR READER CARD.

President Rosebaum will then offer concluding remarks, and the Glee Clubs will sing the Alma Mater.

Recessional

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ALMA MATER, PLEASE REMAIN STANDING IN FRONT OF YOUR CHAIR until the Platform Party has marched out of the Ceremony area. THERE IS NO RECESSIONAL FOR GRADUATES.

5/23/25