



FIRSTGEN GRADUATE 2020

Dear First-Generation Graduate,

As a first-generation college student, you know how to persist through uncharted territory and overcome unforeseen challenges. The qualities that led you to UC San Diego are the same qualities that will help you succeed during this time of unprecedented change. Qualities such as resilience, adaptability, compassion and determination serve to help us focus on the present as well as prepare for the future.

We recognize that for many first-generation college students, commencement is the culmination of decades of hard work. It is a crucial ceremony that recognizes and celebrates intellectual and academic achievement and presents graduates with a formal opportunity to show gratitude for the support they have received from family, loved ones and their communities.

It was our sincere hope to be able to continue our most celebrated tradition in person at the end of the academic year, but unfortunately, that is not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's commencement requires an innovative solution that balances recognition of accomplishment with concerns for public health and safety.

Spring 2020 graduates of UC San Diego's undergraduate and graduate programs will be recognized with [virtual ceremonies](#). Our traditional in-person commencement ceremonies will be held at later, yet-to-be-determined dates.

Commencement is an important moment to take pride in and share your tremendous accomplishment. We want to ensure that you have the opportunity to mark the occasion and celebrate your milestone accordingly.

To complement your virtual commencement experience, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will feature graduating first-generation Tritons on the [Triton Firsts website](#). This website will spotlight your accomplishments, give you space to share your experience as a first-generation student, and provide a unique opportunity to express gratitude to those who supported you along the way.

To participate in this initiative, please visit bit.ly/firstgengrads2020 and share your story. For questions, email firstgentritons@ucsd.edu.

Congratulations on your accomplishments,

Pradeep K. Khosla
Chancellor

John Moore
Dean of Undergraduate Education

Elizabeth Simmons
Executive Vice Chancellor

Becky Pettit
Vice Chancellor of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

James Antony
Dean, The Graduate Division

Alysson Satterlund
Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs