



## ACADEMIC POLICY

### Graduation

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#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**1. Why do I have to apply for graduation?**

Since students progress through their program at their own pace, applying for graduation is the only way to let the university know when you intend to graduate. It then affords the university time to review your progress, submit any necessary adjustments, prepare your diploma and forward your information to the Commencement Office for inclusion in the ceremonies.

**2. How do I know when I'm ready to graduate?**

One of the best tools to track your progress in your program is the GPS degree audit, which combines your declared program's requirements with your course registration and final grades. You can find your audit by logging into [FlashLine](#) and clicking on the "Student" tab; the GPS Audit and Plan is on the dashboard.

**3. How soon can I apply before the deadline?**

The online application for graduation typically is available anywhere from six to nine months PRIOR to the deadline. For specific dates, you can consult the [Financial Aid, Billing and Enrollment Center website](#).

**4. I forgot to apply to graduate, and the deadline has passed. What should I do?**

If the online application for your intended graduation term is no longer available, you should contact your college advising office or campus student services office for help in submitting a late application.

**5. Are graduation and commencement the same thing?**

No, they are not. Graduation marks the completion of your program and the awarding of your degree or certificate. Commencement is the formal university ceremony that recognizes degree/certificate candidates.

**6. Do I have to go to commencement in order to be awarded my degree?**

No, with the exception of the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree. Commencement is a voluntary ceremony that you can choose to attend. If you have applied for graduation and have been cleared of all your program's requirements, the credential will post to your transcript, and you will receive a diploma. In addition, just by attending the commencement ceremony does not mean you have graduated. The ceremony takes place prior to grades being submitted for the end of term and graduation clearance being reviewed. It is possible to have attended commencement but not earned your degree. Note that students earning the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree are required to attend commencement.

**7. How do I find out the date for my commencement ceremony?**

Commencement dates are listed on Kent State University's [Academic Calendar](#). More information about specific commencement ceremonies may be found on the [Commencement website](#).

**8. When will I receive my diploma?**

Upon final degree approval, your digital diploma will arrive approximately four to five weeks after commencement. Watch for an email notification that will be sent to your Kent State email address. Paper diplomas will be mailed separately to your permanent address on file 10 to 14 days after you receive your digital diploma.

**9. My address has changed. How can I change it to be able to receive my diploma?**

To see or change your address on file, log into [FlashLine](#) and select Student > Dashboard > My Personal Information located under your profile.