February 2, 2016

Graduate Students-

The August Commencement ceremony has been discontinued, effective immediately. The university will continue to confer degrees in August, but there will only be two commencement ceremonies each year: one in December and one in May.

Students planning to receive a graduate degree in May should continue to abide by the current graduation deadlines found here - http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/admitted/graduation.html

**Students planning to receive a graduate degree in AUGUST 2016 – the process changes a bit for you.**

You will need to register at the Bookstore, if you wish to participate in the MAY 2016 commencement ceremony the first week of April. You will need to apply to the Graduate School for your degree by June 6 and complete all other degree requirements by the regular summer deadlines, as posted at http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/admitted/graduation.html. If all requirements are met, the degree will be conferred in August 2016.

**Participation in a Commencement Ceremony for August Graduates.**

If you are completing:

- Master’s or Ed. Specialist degree – you can register to walk in either the MAY 2016 ceremony OR the DECEMBER 2016 ceremony
- Graduate Certificate ONLY [no additional degree] – your name can be printed in the commencement booklet, at your request, but no participation in the commencement ceremony.

If you will graduate in August and wish to participate in the May 2016 ceremony, please contact the Graduate School with your name and student number by March 25th, preferably by e-mail to GradSchool@umsl.edu so that your name can be printed in the May commencement booklet. We will post a similar deadline in the fall for participation in the December Commencement.

Students completing doctoral degrees [PhD, EdD, DNP] may not participate in Commencement until all degree requirements have been completed. Therefore, if you are completing a doctoral degree in August, your degree can be conferred in August 2016, but you can only participate in the DECEMBER 2016 ceremony.

Here are important websites to note:

- Graduation Deadlines - http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/admitted/graduation.html
- Commencement Information - http://www.umsl.edu/commencement/
- Cap and Gown Information - http://www.umsl.edu/commencement/candidateinformation/capandgown.html

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this process. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions. We are happy to assist you.

Graduate School Staff

An Equal Opportunity Institution
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