



Since Spring of 2020, the Graduation Committee and SSW Administrative Team has worked diligently to provide the most meaningful commencement possible to our graduates during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have utilized many formats and gathered feedback each time from our graduates. We are pleased that our most recent commencement (December 2020) provided very positive feedback to the ceremony being offered live via Zoom. As this is also in line with University and public health guidelines, we intend to provide a live commencement via zoom again. Please review the details below for more information.

Ceremony

The ceremony will be held on **Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 10am (EST)**. It will be a live ceremony which students join through Zoom. Staff, students' families, etc. will be able to view the ceremony via live streaming on the School of Social Work site. It will also be recorded and posted on the SSW site for those who need to watch at another time.

Attire

The SSW will purchase a graduation cap, tassel, and master's hood to utilize during the ceremony for each graduating student who chooses this to use with their individual celebration with loved ones. Instructions will be provided for students so they can reach out to Ulrich's Bookstore to place their individual order and provide a shipping address.

Name Reading

We understand the importance of students having their name read as part of the ceremony. Each student will have a slide with their name, practice method/area, and a photograph to be shown when their name is read. We will email instructions to graduates so they can provide their preferred name, proper pronunciation, and photograph they wish to be included.

Keynote & Student Speakers/Performers

Keynote speakers are often selected up to a year in advance and faculty, staff, and students are invited to submit keynote speaker nominations ongoing throughout the year. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to submit student speaker/performer nominations for the May ceremony until February 25, 2021 (send to ssw.graduation@umich.edu). An announcement will be made when a keynote and student speaker(s) and/or performers have been confirmed.

Special Faculty Roles

Graduating students will be encouraged to vote for faculty members who will serve in special roles for the virtual commencement. Voting information will be sent soon to students who have applied for graduation.

Applying for Graduation

If you expect to graduate by the end of the Winter 2021 term, you must apply for graduation via Wolverine Access by **March 3, 2021**.

Steps to Apply for Graduation

- 1.) Go to Wolverine Access
- 2.) Click "Student Business"
- 3.) Login using your unique username & UMICH (Kerberos) password.

- 4.) Click "Apply for Graduation", select student center, other academics
- 5.) Select the Program for which you wish to apply for graduation.
- 6.) Follow the prompts to complete your graduation application
- 7.) Once you have completed the graduation application, click "Submit Application"

If you are uncertain if you already applied for graduation, email ssw.graduation@umich.edu to inquire.

We hope this graduation format will offer students the most memorable and special ending to the MSW program possible. We ask that graduates actively watch their email for important instructions and deadlines that will be shared soon.

Questions regarding commencement can be sent to ssw.graduation@umich.edu.