

Dear Candidates for Graduation,

It is hard to believe we are less than three weeks away from the end of the semester. As you put finishing touches on last projects and prepare for your *FINAL* finals, we wanted to share some important updates relevant to you as members of the graduating class.

Degree Conferral Date

With the postponement of commencement weekend activities, you may be wondering when degrees will be conferred and how we will get diplomas to graduates. The degree conferral date (not the ceremony, of course) will still be Saturday, May 9, which means this is the date successful degree candidates can officially call themselves Meredith College graduates. Our office will mail diplomas several weeks later to your home address unless notified of a different address by May 15.

Ceremony Update & Celebrating Your Accomplishments

We asked you to contribute ideas to help us reimagine commencement weekend activities, and about 150 of you responded to our survey. We appreciate the ideas and feedback you submitted. The dominant theme in your responses was that a majority of you do not want an online ceremony and the College intends to honor that wish with an in-person ceremony at some point in the future. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

In the meantime, we have several efforts underway to celebrate you and your accomplishments. These efforts include Strong Stories, a special web page, social media campaign, and highlights in the Summer 2020 *Meredith Magazine*. Watch your Meredith email and social media for ways you can contribute to and download content for some of these commemorations.

Cap and Gown Photos on Campus

Many of you have inquired about coming to campus this spring to take outdoor graduation photos. We will be able to welcome you back to campus for outdoor photo sessions as soon as North Carolina and Wake County stay-at-home orders expire. We anticipate that rules about social distancing will still be in play, so solo shots only until those rules are relaxed. Whenever we do have the in-person ceremony, do plan to pose with friends. After all, you have been on quite a journey together throughout your days as a Meredith student, and not just in the past few weeks!

If you still wish to purchase your cap and gown now and have it shipped to you, contact Emily Kelleher, campus store manager, at ekelleher@meredith.edu. You will also have opportunities for purchasing when the physical store re-opens.

We wish you the best in your final days as our students and look forward to seeing what you accomplish as Meredith graduates.

Sincerely,

The Office of the Registrar