

The message below is being sent on behalf of Meredith College President Jo Allen, '80.

Dear Class of 2020,

As promised in [July](#), I'm writing with an update on plans for a rescheduled in-person celebration of your graduation from Meredith. After careful consideration, we have determined that Spring 2021 is the earliest that an in-person celebration can be scheduled.

This decision is based on a number of factors. You were clear in your survey responses that your preference is for a ceremony that resembles our traditional ceremony as much as possible, and current indoor and outdoor gathering limits prevent this from happening for the foreseeable future. We also considered alternative in-person ceremony ideas for the Fall, but kept brushing up against travel restrictions, gathering limits, date conflicts, and difficulties securing a back up for inclement weather.

We understand that this is not the news you want to hear. When it became clear last Spring that the May ceremony needed to be postponed, I don't think any of us thought conditions would prevent us from being able to celebrate for more than a few months.

We also understand that it is your desire that your ceremony be separate and distinct from the celebration for the Class of 2021. We are considering dates and times that will not overlap with the May 2021 commencement ceremony. We will provide you with a status update regarding planning at a later date.

I continue to be proud of the strength and resilience you have demonstrated, and I look forward to celebrating your accomplishments as soon as it is safe to do so.

Sincerely,

Jo Allen, '80
President