College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

Commencement Ceremony
When: Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Viejas Arena
The processional will begin promptly at 8:15 a.m.

Rehearsal
When: Thursday, May 12, 2016
Where: Viejas Arena
A rehearsal will be held for the following groups only, as follows:

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) candidates will be held at 3:00 p.m.

All other master’s degree candidates will be held at 3:30 p.m.
(Master of Arts; Master of Science; Master of Music; Master of Public Administration; Master of City Planning). Please bring your hood to rehearsal.

There will be no rehearsal for bachelor’s candidates.

Entrance to Viejas Arena

Candidates must access L Lot (north of Viejas Arena) from the ground level, across from Parking Structure 4. All guests must access Viejas Arena through the main entrance gates. Due to stringent security measures, all students participating in commencement are required to present their RedID or a valid, government-issued picture ID in order to be admitted to Viejas Arena. Students who do not bring valid ID will not be allowed to participate in commencement.

Processional

No later than 7:30 a.m., bachelor’s and master’s candidates (not including MFA candidates) must arrive to L Lot and line up behind their respective department signs. Faculty marshals and
student ushers will organize the processional lines. While waiting in line, you will fill out cards asking for your name, degree and address. College representatives will use these cards to announce your name as you walk across the stage. In addition, commencement photographers will use these cards to send you photo information.

The processional will begin promptly at 8:15 a.m.

Inclement Weather

In case of rain, candidates should arrive to L Lot, across from Parking Structure 4, at least 45 minutes before the processional start time, unless otherwise noted for your college.

Once candidates enter through security and show their RedID, they will proceed directly inside Viejas Arena where they will be seated according to their department.

Tickets and Seating

To ensure orderly entrance to Viejas Arena, all guests ages one (1) year of age and older must have tickets. Candidates may pick up complimentary, reserved seat tickets during GradFest in Montezuma Hall at the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union, March 22-24, from 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Beginning Friday, March 25, students who did not claim commencement tickets at GradFest will obtain them at the Viejas Arena Ticket Office. If a student does not claim tickets by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 6, the ticket office cannot guarantee the student will receive the full number of commencement tickets. Beginning Monday, May 9, the ticket office will distribute remaining tickets, if any are available, to any SDSU student with a valid RedID only. These tickets will be distributed two-at-a-time on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ceremony

Dean Joyce Gattas will preside over the ceremony, which will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

All graduates and guests should remain seated until the ceremony is concluded by Dean Gattas.

Graduates will exit Viejas Arena at floor level and guests will exit from the top gates. Guests will not be able to enter the arena floor. Please do not congregate in front of the arena exits.

Photography

Guests must remain seated until the conclusion of the ceremony. You will not be allowed to stand in the aisles or block the views of others in order to take photos or videos. Camera
tripods are not allowed in Viejas Arena. There will be ample time after each ceremony to take photographs on campus with a wide variety of backdrops.

**Graduation portrait photographers will be available during GradFest, March 22-24.**

GradImages Photography will be taking photographs of each graduate on stage during the commencement ceremonies. Each graduate will be sent no-obligation proofs of the commencement photographs via email and text after the event. Proofs will also be sent via postal mail. You will have the opportunity to purchase prints after you have seen your proofs. At the ceremony, please ensure that you provide correct email and mailing information on the card you bring to stage from which your name will be announced.

Prior to the ceremony, graduates can also pre-register by visiting www.gradimages.com and clicking on “Pre-Event Email Registration.” There you will enter your email address and up to six emails for others to view and order your photos.

If you have any questions about your commencement ceremony photographs, please visit www.gradimages.com/sandiegostateuniversity or call toll-free 1-800-261-2576.

**Disability Access**

Please call Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473 for assistance for candidates with mobility or hearing difficulties or other disabilities.

**Questions**

If you have further questions, please contact:

Dean’s Office, College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts
psfa@mail.sdsu.edu
(619) 594-5124