

**Subject:** Commencement Updates and Reminders

**Audience:** All graduating students

**Send date:** Thursday, March 29, 2023

Dear Graduating Students,

Please read through the following information carefully, as there are a number of important deadlines coming in the next few weeks.

### **Regalia Rental Deadline Fast Approaching**

Regalia rental reservations are now open! There is a strict deadline of **11:59 p.m. ET on Saturday, April 8th** to place your order to ensure that your regalia will be available for the ceremony on May 25th. Please visit the [regalia page](#) for complete information about regalia rentals.

### **Speech Submission Deadlines TONIGHT and MONDAY!**

The deadline to submit a speech for the University Morning Exercises is tonight at 11:59 p.m.! Students interested in submitting a speech to be considered for the HGSE Convocation must submit their speech no later than 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. More information about these speech competitions can be found on the [speech contests](#) page.

### **Phyllis Strimling Award Applications are Now Open**

The [Phyllis Strimling Award](#) recognizes the character and achievement of an HGSE graduate with a strong academic performance, who has used or is preparing to use the HGSE experience for the advancement of women and society, and who has grown personally and professionally as a result. The award will be presented as part of the HGSE Convocation Ceremony, on Wednesday, May 24. To learn more about the award and the application process, please visit this [website](#). The deadline for applications is Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Degree Application**

As per the [email](#) sent from the HGSE Registrar's Office to all graduating students on Friday, March 17th, graduates are reminded that they must complete their graduation application by Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Completion of the degree application ensures the accuracy of your information for the Commencement Exercises and information related to the delivery of your diploma. Questions about the degree application process can be sent to [registrar@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:registrar@gse.harvard.edu).

### **University-wide Affinity Celebrations Honoring Graduating Students**

These efforts recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of graduates from historically marginalized and underrepresented communities. They provide an opportunity for graduates to honor those who have helped them achieve their milestone while centering their cultural traditions and values. These celebrations offer keynote speakers, performances, regalia accessories, and cultural celebrations in addition to the Harvard University Commencement and School based ceremonies.

Affinity celebrations are open to all Harvard graduates. Those interested in participating in one of the affinity celebrations listed below and/or ordering a regalia accessory/commemorative gift, should complete this [registration form](#) by April 24<sup>th</sup>.

1. Affinity Celebration Honoring Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Desi-American Graduates
2. Affinity Celebration Honoring Black Graduates
3. Affinity Celebration Honoring First Gen Next Gen Graduates
4. Affinity Celebration Honoring Indigenous Graduates
5. Affinity Celebration Honoring Latinx Graduates
6. Lavender Celebration Honoring LGBTQIA+ Graduates
7. Affinity Celebration Honoring Graduates with Disabilities

**This list does not fully reflect the various University-wide affinity celebrations that are planned.** Some events which are not listed include: Arab Graduates Affinity Celebration, Harvard Native American Program Affinity Celebration, and Lavender Grad for Harvard College. If you wish to learn more about these events and others, please visit the [OEDIB website](#) for additional information.

Be sure to review the HGSE OSA Commencement website if you have any questions about Commencement 2023 or reach out to [osa@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:osa@gse.harvard.edu).

Best of luck as you complete the Spring semester,

Kevin

Kevin Boehm  
Director of Student Affairs