

SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE

Student Commencement Speaker Application Form Commencement Ceremony Friday, May 17, 2024

Name: _____ Student ID#: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Major: _____ GPA: _____

CRITERIA

1. 3.25 cumulative GPA or higher at the time of application
2. Strong extracurricular involvement/volunteerism/work experience/other
3. Strong leadership skills/abilities
4. Ability to effectively convey educational and other relevant experiences both in writing and verbally
5. The majority of units must have been completed at Miramar College
6. Receiving an AA/AS

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper (2 pages maximum):

1. Why would you like to be the student speaker at this year's Commencement ceremony?
2. What experiences have you had at Miramar College and/or in the community that would make you a good representative of the college?
3. What qualities do you possess that would make you a strong candidate to be the student speaker?

Also, submit a preliminary version of your proposed speech (approximately 700-1000 words). See below for important information about commencement speeches.

Please submit this form along with the items listed above to Janee Robinson at jfrobins@sdccd.edu in the Evaluations Office by **Friday, March 1, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.** If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the Evaluations Office in person in K1-207 or by phone at: (619) 388-7371 or 388-7844.

OTHER KEY DATES TO NOTE

Students will be notified if they have been invited to present their speech to the selection committee by Thursday, March 21. Those selected will make their presentations on **April 4-5**. One student speaker will be selected by **Thursday, April 9**.

Important information on writing a winning commencement speech!

Being chosen as a college commencement speaker is a high honor and a capstone of a successful college career. Many spend a lot of time preparing a speech, only to learn that someone else was awarded that honor. How can you improve your chances to present your speech at Commencement?

Here are some guidelines:

- **Tell a story:** Talk about personal success, such as struggles ending in triumph, or momentous decisions and life-changing experiences that have shaped who you are today.
- **Make it personal:** Add touches that show who you are. Humor, modesty, or even a little boastfulness is OK!
- **Make it universal:** Commencement celebrates the achievements of all graduates. Don't forget them. Acknowledge those who have travelled this road with you, as well as the people who have supported you along the way. However...
- **Don't make this the Oscars:** Leave the long list of "Thank yous" to Hollywood actors accepting their Academy Awards. While showing gratitude to those who helped you reaching your goals is recommended, it should **not** be the bulk of your speech.
- **Be yourself:** Be sincere! Nothing kills a speech—or an audition—like the appearance of phoniness (or sounding insincere) or "phoning it in" (or sounding lifeless).
- **Be original: DO NOT** write a speech filled with quotations from famous people or clichés about success and hard work. Those speeches don't get chosen.
- **Be clear:** Sloppy, poorly organized, or incoherent speeches aren't chosen, either.

If your speech is chosen:

- **Be flexible, open-minded, and available:** The selected speech will likely go through much revision for final polish, and we'll take the time to coach the winner on effective public speaking. Be ready and willing to work with the professors on the commencement committee.
- **Relax!:** Don't worry about being nervous! Some of Miramar's best and most memorable commencement speeches were made by graduates afraid of public speaking.