

PROPOSED CHANGE TO VPSO-13

Commencement Dates and Degree Conferral



VPSO-13

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About This Policy

Effective Date:

06-25-1998

Date of Last Review/Update:

01-18-2019

Responsible University Office:

~~Office of the Vice President for Strategic Operations~~ University Faculty Council

Responsible University Administrator:

~~University Faculty Council~~ Office of the Vice President for Strategic Operations

Policy Contact:

Associate Vice President for University Enrollment Services

Policy Feedback:

If you have comments or questions about this policy, let us know with the [policy feedback form](#).

Scope

Policy Statement

The following points will serve as guidelines for the degree conferral dates that all campuses will use:

- If there is a commencement ceremony, degrees will be conferred effective the date of the ceremony.
- If there is no commencement ceremony, degrees will be conferred effective the last day of the term.
- Graduate degrees may be awarded the last day each month or on the last day of the term ending in that month.

Undergraduate Degrees

May (Commencement Date)

June 30

July (Last Day of Summer Term, if it falls in July; otherwise no July conferral date)

August (Last Day of Summer Term, if it falls in August; otherwise no August conferral date)

December (BL Commencement Date) (Others – Last Day of Term)

Graduate & Professional Degrees

May (Commencement Date)

June 30

Last Day of Summer Term, if it falls in July; otherwise July 31

Last Day of Summer Term, if it falls in August; otherwise August 31

September 30

October 31

November 30

December (BL Commencement Date) (Others – Last Day of Term)

January 31

February 28; February 29 in leap years

March 31

April 30

Reason for Policy

This policy minimizes the time from the end of a term to the date when a degree is conferred, which allows students to obtain official transcripts or be officially certified in a timely manner.

Procedures

The Offices of the Registrar use standard dates across all campuses as the degree conferral date that is recorded on student transcripts for each term. These dates are maintained in IU's Student Information System (SIS).

Definitions

Term: A Term is equivalent to a semester; individual Sessions are associated with Terms; an academic year consists of three sixteen-week terms (Fall, Spring, Summer); some programs utilize four twelve-week terms (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer).

Commencement: Commencement is a university ceremony where the University President, Trustees, academic officers, faculty, graduating students, and their families and guests, assemble for the purpose of conferring degrees upon the newly certified graduates. The conferral of degrees is performed by the President with the approval of the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the faculty.