Congratulations! You’re graduating, now what?

*Checklist for Int’l Graduate Students*

*Preparing for the Graduation/Commencement Ceremony*

Depending on the academic program, students may graduate in May, August, November, December or February. However, commencement ceremonies are held *once each year in May* for students who have completed (or plan to complete) degree requirements in November, December, February, May or the following August. August graduates must be within six credits of degree completion to participate in May commencement. Upon completion of all degree requirements, students are sent an official copy of their transcript with the degree posted on it. This normally is sent within one month after the semester/term ends. Diplomas are usually available within 8-12 weeks after the end of the semester/term.

At the start of two semesters/terms prior to when you plan to complete your master’s degree program, you should:

- Make arrangements to take the comprehensive examination if your program requires that option.
- Submit the "Application for Degree" and applicable fee to the Registrar’s Office. This application should be submitted by the posted deadline in the Registrar’s Office.
- Make arrangements to meet with an advisor to assure all requirements are met (optional).
- Complete the “Graduate Separation Form” (available in the Int’l Programs Office or on-line)
- Ensure that the Registrar’s Office has an address to send your degree completion transcript (after 30 days) and your diploma (8-12 weeks later).
- Purchase your graduation gown from the bookstore or online in February-March.
- Purchase the graduation stole that represents your country during the month of March ($25 from International Programs)
- RSVP for the International Graduation Banquet, held the Thursday evening before commencement (family and friends are welcome to attend)
- Secure a letter of support for any travel visas required for family members who are planning to travel to the US to attend the ceremony. Make an appointment with Juanita beginning in February. At the time of your appointment, please provide:
  1. The full name of each family member and their relationship to you (mother, father, sister, aunt, etc.)
  2. The anticipated travel dates – arrival and departure