Guidelines Regarding Students Participating in Commencement before Completion of Requirements

Students attending the Yale University School of Nursing form life-long bonds with their classmates. This bond begins to take shape as early as the admissions process and lasts throughout their professional careers well after graduation. Keeping these important relationships in mind, the following are guidelines that the School can use to determine whether its future alumnae/i, should “walk” at the Commencement ceremony with their classmates if they do not complete all the graduation requirements by the Wednesday before Commencement. Of course, these students will not be presented to The Yale Corporation for conferral, and will not receive a diploma until all of their incomplete work is finalized and graded.

- Students are eligible to participate in the Commencement ceremony only if they have not completed a portion of their coursework for one remaining class needed for graduation. The student should be in good academic standing and the faculty on record must concur that the student is in good standing and will be able to complete the remaining portion of the coursework during the summer following graduation. This option is only applicable for students who are unable to complete a small portion of the course requirement (less than 40%) for some particular reason (personal, clinical site issues, etc.) during the regular spring semester time frame. This is not an option for students who need to complete more than 60% of the coursework during the summer months. This needs to be a course or requirement from the spring semester of the graduation year. Incomplete grades or requirements from previous semesters place the student ineligible for this accommodation.

- In such instances, if the student is granted an incomplete, he or she needs to register and pay the fee for summer coursework. If the student is allowed to “walk” at the Commencement ceremony, the student is still subject to all relevant policies regarding the extension of time to complete work, as well as policies regarding summer registration.

- Regarding clinical course completion: Students who are lacking the required numbers of clinical hours can be eligible to participate in Commencement. If the clinical course is extended into the summer term because of a question regarding a student’s clinical skills or ability to achieve the clinical objective, the student should not participate in the Commencement ceremony.

- In ALL instances of such an exception, the faculty of record for the course in question along with the Specialty Director and Associate Dean for Student Affairs need to be in agreement that the student in question WILL finish the course requirements before the start of the following fall semester. This includes didactic coursework, clinical coursework and any final submission of a paper/thesis/praxis. If there is a question as to whether the student may or may not finish in that timeframe, the student should not be able to participate in the Commencement ceremony.

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