



For Immediate Release
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Salus University Planning Hybrid Commencement for Class of 2021



Salus University Class of 2021

Elkins Park, Pa. — As it has for the last year and a half throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Salus University will give the Class of 2021 memorable commencement events scheduled to take place Tuesday, May 25 through Thursday, May 27. The University's 122nd commencement ceremony will offer a hybrid format, both in-person and online, for graduates and their families.

Prior to the University-wide virtual commencement ceremony, college-based graduate recognition events will take place in-person at the University's main campus in Elkins Park (8360 Old York Road), offering participating graduates the opportunity to dress in traditional regalia, have their names announced, receive their diplomas and have

professional photographs taken. To maintain the health and safety of the Salus community at the in-person recognition events, families can attend and watch the graduates from their vehicles. All graduates will be required to wear face masks to participate.

The graduate recognition events will be livestreamed, and recordings of all recognition events will be available at www.salus.edu/virtualcommencement.

Additionally, the week will culminate with the University-wide virtual commencement ceremony, which will include the keynote address by Congresswoman Madeleine Dean, a U.S. representative for Pennsylvania's 4th congressional district; degree conferrals by Dr. Mittelman and Barry Eckert, PhD, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs; student address, the Oath to Professionalism, and other traditional elements.

During the virtual ceremony, which is normally hosted at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, Dr. Mittelman will confer an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Robert E. Horne, the University's former vice president and dean of Student Affairs who retired in 2012. Horne's initiatives in recruitment and retention efforts, including the University's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) established in 1977 for racially underrepresented students, caused an immediate change that eventually led to the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus becoming the most racially diverse program in the country.

"Like last year when the pandemic just began, we find ourselves in a position where we desperately want to honor the hard work and dedication of our graduates as well as the support they've received from their families and loved ones in a safe manner," University President Dr. Michael H. Mittelman said. "As we wait for the time when we can all gather safely again, we've opted to celebrate our remarkable graduates with multiple drive-thru style events on campus. We realize it's not the same as congregating for a large luncheon with family members or enjoying the wonderful ambience of our traditional ceremony at the Kimmel Center, but it's the best that we can do under extreme circumstances. I'm very optimistic and hopeful that we will return to a more normal situation this fall and certainly by next May."

The in-person events will be held rain or shine. Here is the University's full commencement schedule of in-person events and the virtual ceremony:

Tuesday, May 25

10 a.m. - Osborne College of Audiology

1 p.m. - College of Health Sciences, Education and Rehabilitation

Wednesday, May 26

9:30 a.m. - Pennsylvania College of Optometry

Thursday, May 27

2 p.m. – University-wide virtual Commencement ceremony at www.salus.edu/virtualcommencement

Graduates, their families and friends are invited to participate in the University's virtual ceremony and in-person recognition events, all featuring a livestream chat for online viewers and the hashtag #SalusGrad on social media.

Watch all the events, find answers to frequently asked questions surrounding COVID-19 safety protocols and directions for graduates attending in-person events at www.salus.edu/virtualcommencement.

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, speech-language pathology services and occupational therapy. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.