Graduate School POLICY: Conferring of Degrees, Commencement

A. Purpose & Scope
To define and describe the process for conferring degrees

B. Definition(s)

C. Policy
Degrees are conferred in May (at the end of the Spring semester), in August (at the end of the Summer session), in December (at the end of the Fall semester) and in January (at the end of the Winter session); but Commencement is held only twice a year, in May (for May graduates only) and in December (for August, December and January graduates). Diplomas and official University transcripts record the student's date of graduation as the month and year in which the degree was conferred.

Attendance at the Commencement exercises is appropriate, unless unusual circumstances warrant graduation in absentia. Permission to graduate in absentia is granted by the President of the University or the President's designee. Candidates for graduation should contact the President's Office or designee and request permission to be excused from the Commencement ceremony.

A graduate of California University of Pennsylvania is a member of the class of that calendar year in which the degree was conferred. That is, if one graduated in January, May, August or December of 2010, one is a member of the class of 2010 regardless of the year one may have attended Commencement.

D. Procedure(s)

E. Effective Date: 2005-2006 Graduate Catalog
Updated Date: June 29, 2015
Amended Date: