

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Graduate Students  
**From:** Anne Mayhew, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies  
**Subject:** Spring Commencement Participation Guidelines  
**Date:** March 12, 2002

The University of Tennessee has changed its scheduling of Commencement ceremonies. As of this year, Commencement ceremonies will be held at the end of Fall and Spring Semesters, but not at the end of Summer Term. Transcripts will show that students who complete requirements for their degrees during Summer Term were granted their degrees at the end of the Summer Term, but there will be no official Commencement or Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.

*What this change means for Graduate Students is this*

Non-thesis master's candidates who graduate in a Summer Term will have the option of participating in the Spring Commencement Ceremony if they are within 6 hours of completion of degree requirements. If you plan to attend, you must complete the RSVP form and submit it to 201 Student Services Building. However, non-thesis master's candidates who graduate in a Summer Term will not be listed in the Commencement Program until the Fall Semester following graduation.

Master's candidates writing theses and doctoral candidates who graduate in a Summer Term will not be eligible to participate as graduates in the Spring Commencement Ceremony prior to graduation. Master's candidates writing theses and doctoral candidates who graduate in a Summer Term will be listed in the Commencement Program in the Fall Semester following graduation.

All graduate students who graduate in a Summer Term have the option of attending the Commencement or Doctoral Hooding Ceremony the Fall Semester following graduation. Indeed, we welcome and encourage all of those who will complete their degree requirements in the Summer Term to return and participate fully in the Fall Semester ceremonies.

If you have questions or comments about these new policies, please feel free to contact the Office of Graduate Student Services, 440 Communications Building, or to email me at [amayhew@utk.edu](mailto:amayhew@utk.edu).