

Keck School of Medicine of USC  
Class of 2023  
Doctor of Medicine Commencement Guide

The 138th Commencement of the Keck School of Medicine of USC MD program will be held on **Saturday, May 13, 2023**, at **3:00 p.m.**, in the **USC Galen Center, 3400 Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90089**. The ceremony will begin at 3:00 p.m. sharp and is approximately 2 hours long. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony at University Park Campus in **Founders Park**. Light refreshments and beverages will be served, caps and gowns collected, and diplomas distributed. The reception is scheduled to end at approximately 6:15 p.m.

If you will not be participating in the Commencement ceremony, please notify Mandy Garcia at [mandygar@usc.edu](mailto:mandygar@usc.edu).

**SCHEDULE FOR GRADUATES: SATURDAY, MAY 13**

- 2:00 p.m.**      **Processional Line-Up: Founder's Room, Galen Center**  
Graduates line up in the Galen Center Founder's Room
- 2:57 p.m.**      **Processional begins**
- 3:10 p.m.**      **Commencement Ceremony begins**
- 5:00 p.m.**      **Reception, UPC, Founders Park**  
Academic regalia return; diploma pick-up.

**PARKING**

Parking is **free** in the McCarthy Way Parking Structure at the USC Campus (use McCarthy Way Entrance off Figueroa Street) and next to the Galen Center in the Figueroa Street Parking Structure (enter off Figueroa Street, north of Exposition Boulevard). Guests with disabilities can be dropped off at the turn-out located on Figueroa Street near the south entrance of the USC Galen Center.

**COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL**

Commencement rehearsal will take place on **Wednesday, May 10**, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Mayer Auditorium. All graduates participating in the ceremony are required to participate. If you cannot attend because you will be out of town, please notify Mandy Garcia at [mandygar@usc.edu](mailto:mandygar@usc.edu).

**ACADEMIC REGALIA AND COMMENCEMENT ATTIRE**

Lightweight clothing and comfortable shoes are recommended. Flip-flops may not be worn. Only leis and stoles are permitted on top of gowns. Academic Regalia will be distributed at Commencement Rehearsal on May 10.

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**DIPLOMAS**

During the ceremony, you will receive a diploma cover as you cross the stage. You will receive your official diploma at the reception when you return your academic regalia if you have completed all requirements, we have received all your evaluations for every course on your schedule, and we have received your completed Senior Sign-Out forms.

**PROCESSIONAL, COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY, AND RECESSIONAL**

**2:00 p.m., Processional Line-Up: Galen Center Founder's Room**

Graduates line up for the procession in the Founder's Room of the Galen Center. KSOM staff will oversee lining up over 160 students; therefore, please (1) be prompt, (2) bring **no guests** with you into the line-up area, and (3) come dressed in your regalia.

The procession will be formed by the following groupings (from the front):

- 1) Class Presidents
- 2) Student Speaker
- 3) Candidates for Dual Degrees (MD/PhD, MD/MBA, MD/MPH)
- 4) Candidates for the M.D. degree (in alphabetical order)

At approximately 2:57 p.m., the procession will begin. The order of the processional is Vice Dean Elliott, the faculty platform party, Dr. Price-Johnson, the commencement speaker, Dean Meltzer, and the graduates.

**3:00 p.m., Commencement Ceremony: Galen Center**

The program will proceed in this order:

- National Anthem
- Presentation of Guests/Welcome
- Student Address
- Commencement Address
- Confirmation of Awards
- Conferment of Degree
- Award of Diplomas/Hooding
- Administration of Keck Oath
- Recessional

**TICKETS**

Tickets are not needed, and we welcome all who wish to share this joyful occasion with our graduates. Children are welcome to attend; however, strollers are not permitted in the USC Galen Center in compliance with fire codes.

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**ARRIVAL AND SEATING**

Galen Center doors open at 2:00 p.m. Seating is on a first-come basis. All seating in Galen provides a wonderful view of the ceremony. Guests cannot use tape, rope, etc. to reserve seats or sit in roped-off areas. Cell phones should be turned off.

The doors to the auditorium will be closed at 2:55 p.m. to clear the aisles for the procession.

**SEATING FOR ELDERLY AND ADA GUESTS**

Doors will open at 2:00 p.m. ADA guests should enter through the North Entrance of the Galen Center. Parking is provided next to the Galen Center in the Figueroa Street Parking Structure (enter off Figueroa Street, north of Exposition Boulevard).

**GALEN CENTER CLEAR BAG POLICY AND METAL DETECTORS**

To provide a safer environment for the public and significantly expedite guest entry into the venue, the Galen Center will be implementing a “clear bag policy” that limits the size and type of bags that may be brought into the arena for all events (one clear bag no larger than 12” x 6” x 12” per person. Also, for increased security, all guests entering the Galen Center walk through metal detector screening with arms raised (guests should remove metal items from pockets).

**STROLLERS**

Strollers are not permitted in the Galen arena. There will be a designated stroller parking area in the lobby of the Galen Center.

**PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOTAPING**

Two professional photos will be taken of each graduate on the stage by Grad Images Photography. Proofs will be mailed and emailed to each graduate for purchase. Due to safety precautions and fire codes, guests **are not permitted** on the stage area, the stairs to the stage, or in the aisles for photography. Guests may not leave their seats to take a photograph. Videotaping should be done from the guest’s seat and not obstruct the view of other guests.

**RECESSIONAL AND RECEPTION**

After the ceremony, Commencement security will stop traffic while the Recessional Line crosses Figueroa Street. Guests will follow the graduates to the reception in Founders Park on the campus across the street from the USC Galen Center. **Guests may meet graduate at the reception.** Founders Park is within walking distance of the Galen Center.

**RETURNING YOUR ACADEMIC REGALIA**

Student Affairs staff will collect regalia at the diploma pick-up area at the Reception. Caps and tassels may be kept as souvenirs.

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**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Guests traveling from outside of the Los Angeles area for Commencement are encouraged to reserve accommodations early.

The hotel adjacent to the Galen Center is the [USC Hotel](#).

Visit [Discover Los Angeles](#) for a handy listing of hotels by price, location, and amenities. When searching, select “Downtown/LA Metro” for the nearest adjacent neighborhood to USC.

**GUEST SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

2:00 p.m.	Doors Open
2:55 p.m.	Doors Close
2:57 p.m.	Procession Begins
3:00 p.m.	Ceremony Begins
5:00 p.m.*	Recessional Reception

*\*Approximate time*