

# USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck

School of Social Work

Dear Graduates:

Congratulations on your milestone!

**Please read** all the information in this email **carefully**. There is important information about ticketing, parking, clear bag policy, ADA and more. If you have questions or concerns regarding any of the details below, contact [Elizabeth Gutierrez](#), Director of Special Events.

**If you are receiving this email, we have received your RSVP form that you plan to attend the school's commencement ceremony on May 15, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (PT) at the [Shrine Auditorium](#).**

If your plans have changed and you will no longer be attending the ceremony, or you need to make any adjustments to the information you submitted in your RSVP form, please email these changes ASAP to [Elizabeth Gutierrez](#).

## **USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work Ceremony**

- 8:00 a.m. **[Guest](#)** doors open, (designated guests with tickets) at the **Royal St. entrance to the Shrine, off of Jefferson.**
- 8:00 a.m. **[Graduate line-up](#)**, (entrance at **700 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St Los Angeles, CA 90007**). **Guests will NOT be allowed to enter through here and will be redirected to Royal St. entrance.**
- 9:00 a.m. Start of Ceremony
- 11:00 a.m. End of Ceremony
- Immediately following the ceremony we will host a light reception, desserts and beverages with a photo opportunity , across the street on campus at the **[Davidson Conference Lawn](#)**. **For those who registered to attend the reception, please show the map on the link above at check-in.** A printed map will also be provided to you in your graduate envelope at the check-in for the ceremony.

## TICKETING:

**Tickets are REQUIRED for guests attending the ceremony at the Shrine.** Graduating students will need to use their USC email account to access these tickets. Here is a [Guide](#) on how to access, transfer, and accept tickets. If you need to request additional tickets for guests, here is the [Additional Ticket Request form](#).

## SECURITY AND CLEAR BAG POLICY:

- Security measures are similar to those for attending all events at the Shrine and will be in place at the designated entrances. All bags and personal property will be screened and go through metal detectors.
- **Small** purses and bags are allowed, while **large** backpacks and bags are prohibited. All bags are subject to security screening.
- Balloons, Oversized Flower Arrangements, Glass Vases, Long Lens Professional Cameras, Tripods, and Drones are Prohibited. For more information on prohibited items, please call (213) 748-5116 or email [info@shrineauditorium.com](mailto:info@shrineauditorium.com)
- You should allow ample time to park, go through security, and ensure you arrive for the lineup for the ceremony processional **on time**.

## GRADUATE LINE-UP AND SEATING:

- Each degree program will have their own line up for procession. When you arrive in Expo Hall after the check-in, locate the sign displaying your degree and get in the line behind it.
- Graduates can choose who they walk and sit with at the ceremony. If you would like to sit with specific fellow graduates in your degree program, you should ensure you stand together in the line-up for procession for your degree. Once you have processed in and are seated in the section assigned for your degree, you **cannot** change seats.
- You will be walking on various surfaces: hard floors, carpet, stairs, and ramps. Be sure to wear shoes that are safe, comfortable, and appropriate for this ceremonious occasion.

- You will be handed an envelope at check-in; in the envelope there will be a name card to fill out with your First and Last name ONLY. No additional titles or information will be read, just your name. This card will be used by the announcer to call your name when you walk across the stage. **Bring the card with you** when you go up to the stage and hand it to the announcer at the podium when it is your turn to receive your diploma.
- PhD and DSW graduates will also be hooded by their mentors on stage in addition to receiving their diplomas. The protocol is to carry your hood on your left arm as you walk, then hand it to your mentor who place it on you.
- All graduates will be guided back to their seats after exiting the stage. **Please plan to stay for the entire ceremony (estimated to last 2 hours) to celebrate your fellow graduates receiving their degrees.**

#### **CAMPUS ACCESS, RIDESHARE AND PARKING:**

**Parking** for the 2026 USC Commencement (May 13–16) is free in most USC-owned structures on a first-come, first-served basis, but fills quickly. Key options include Royal Street, Figueroa Street, Flower Street, and Grand Avenue structures.

Overnight parking or tailgating is not permitted.

#### **DIPLOMAS:**

Diplomas are mailed to graduates by the university approximately three weeks following the commencement ceremonies. All questions or concerns regarding diplomas (i.e., name adjustments, mailing address, etc.) should be directed to the **Office of Academic Records and Registrar**. Individual schools do not oversee anything related to diploma production or distribution.

#### **CHILDREN AT CEREMONY:**

Children of graduates are welcome at the ceremony and will require a ticket, they must be seated with family members or friends in the guest seating area. Children may not sit with graduates in the designated graduate seating area.

Also, for reasons of safety and policy, children and babies-in-arms may not accompany graduates when they walk across the stage. Please ensure there is someone able to care for your child in the guest area for the entire ceremony.

### **GUEST SEATING:**

All **guest** seating is on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Shrine. Please remind your guests they are not allowed to enter the graduate section and will be redirected to guest entrances. Please note that guest entry to the Auditorium house will be paused during the graduate procession

### **PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY:**

GradImages will take photos of every graduate. Image proofs are emailed within 24-48 hours of the ceremony. You can also [Register](#) with [GradImages](#) to receive a 20% discount on any photographs you order after commencement.

As noted above, Long Lens Professional Cameras, Tripods, and Drones are Prohibited for graduates and guests.

### **LIVE STREAM:**

The social work ceremony will be streamed via [Brandlive](#). It will remain available for later viewing.

**CAP & GOWN RENTALS:** Regalia is required for graduates attending the ceremony. For more information, visit: [Rent Regalia](#)

**WALK-UP CAP & GOWN RENTAL AND PICK-UP:** For graduates wishing to rent a cap with tassel, gown, and hood in person, the USC Bookstore will hold an In-Person rental option beginning May 11, until May 15.

Location:

- Outside on the Bookstore patio

### Days and hours:

- May 11th - May 14th: 8:30am - 7:00pm
- May 15th 7:00am - 12:00pm

### Instruction:

- Please go to the bottom of the bookstore stairs closest to TCC. You will see tables and order forms. A Cap & Gown Specialist will be present to provide assistance. After completion of the order form, you will proceed up the stairs to the distribution tent where you will receive your rental items and go into the bookstore to pay.
- **Note:** You **cannot** preorder or reserve rentals to pick up at Distribution ahead of time. Rental Distribution is a walk-in process, and everything is done when you arrive in person. No pre-order or reservation is required before you arrive.
- If you have a **Flag & Banner** voucher, please show a **printed copy** to the Cap & Gown Specialist at the bottom of the stairs for assistance.

### **WEATHER ADVISORY:**

A friendly reminder that the Shrine Auditorium is in an indoor location. Waiting in line will be outdoors, please plan to be in line outdoors with limited shade.

### **ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS:**

For any ADA inquiry, please email us at: [info@shrineauditorium.com](mailto:info@shrineauditorium.com). You may also look for a venue representative when you arrive.

### **ACCESSIBLE SEATING**

The Shrine Auditorium can accommodate patrons in wheelchairs or with restricted mobility and **one companion ONLY**. People with mobility disabilities who require accessible seating because of their disability will be provided accessible seats on a first-come, first-served basis, based on availability. Please find the ADA section located next to the ticket booth station.

### **ACCESSIBLE DROP-OFF AND PICK UP**

All rideshare should be directed to 665. W Jefferson Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90007.

### **ACCESSIBLE PARKING [ADA Parking Reservations](#)**

Guests requiring ADA parking are encouraged to pre-register for a parking space at the Royal Structure on Friday, May 15, by using our [ADA Parking Reservation Link](#). A valid state-issued ADA placard or license plate must be presented to the gate attendant for verification.

For ADA parking in other campus structures throughout commencement week, please visit our [Transit and Parking page](#). Accessible spaces in these structures will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

[View the transit and parking map.](#)

### **CLOSED CAPTIONING**

USC provides closed captioning services. The service provides real-time text of all speeches during the event. You can access the service from your browser on any smart phone or mobile device. Data rates may apply. To access the service from your mobile device, go to <http://bit.ly/sowkcaptions>.

### **SERVICE ANIMALS**

Service animals are welcome inside the Shrine Auditorium. Service animals must remain on a leash or in a harness at all times unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animals safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). If you intend to bring a service animal to the building, please call (213) 748-5116 or email [info@shrineauditorium.com](mailto:info@shrineauditorium.com) or look for a venue representative upon arrival.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Gutierrez  
Director of Special Events

USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work  
University of Southern California