

Hey Yotes!

Hope you are all staying healthy and social distancing! We know this has been a crazy last few weeks, and we sincerely wish you all the best. We want to send our YoteFam spirit especially to the Class of 2020 who have been some of the hardest hit by this last month's events. While the College and our community are doing everything they can to keep us close-knit and supported, obviously none of this is working out how we had all pictured and hoped – especially graduation.

The in-person commencement event was planned for May 23rd at 10 a.m. on the Boone steps has been cancelled because of all the uncertainty surrounding how the COVID-19 crisis will progress and how it would impact everyone's travel plans. However, a task force made up of students and staff have been working hard the last couple of weeks to create a new plan to honor the Class of 2020. **We will be holding a virtual commencement ceremony in place of the regularly scheduled one on May 23rd at 10 a.m. Mountain Time. Additionally, we are planning an in-person ceremony to take place during the 2020-2021 school year once we are able to be back on campus.** That's right, 2020 seniors, we're doing two ceremonies!

The planning of the in-person ceremony is still in progress – more information (and probably surveys about dates) to come. Right now, the task force is focusing on the virtual ceremony. Here are the details so far:

When: May 23, 2020 at 10 a.m. Mountain Time

Where: YouTube Live, premiering live, for everyone who can, to watch at the same time, and then to be archived on the College's YouTube page ([goyotes](https://www.youtube.com/goyotes))

Virtual commencement will have all of the pieces we love about graduation: student speakers, staff and faculty involvement, fun memories from the year, and even more. In place of each graduating student walking across the stage to get their diplomas, though, we are doing something new.

Each graduating student will be given a **timeslot up to 20 seconds** to put in anything they'd like. It can be a video of yourself talking about your time at the College, thanking people, showing off a talent or skill you've learned – anything you'd like! You can also ask a mentor from the College community, maybe a faculty or staff member who has helped you on your journey, to say a few words about your impact and growth during your time here. If you don't want a video, you can even create a montage of your favorite photos from your time at The College of Idaho to fill your spot. Be creative, and use your 20 seconds well! Your video will be preceded by a graphic with your name, majors and minors, academic honors, and the cords and stoles you have earned, and then you come up with the rest.

So now seniors, it's time to start thinking about what you'll do with your time! **Please send us a small clip (be sure to record your video in horizontal form), maximum of 20 seconds, as well as your full name, majors and minors, and the recognitions and honors you earned as stoles and chords for the graphic. Upload the videos to your OneDrive and send them and your information on over to Joe Hughes (jhughes@collegeofidaho.edu) and Adam Eschbach (aeschbach@collegeofidaho.edu) by April 30th!** If you have any questions, send them our way. We want to make sure that each graduating senior is honored at commencement as they all should be!

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding through all of this. We're getting through it together like the YoteFam always does!

Stay healthy and keep up the energy!

Sincerely,

The Virtual Commencement Team

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