

**From:** Mike McCandless, Vice President of Student Services

**Date:** March 16, 2020

**To:** Merced College Students

**Subject: COVID-19 Student Update: May 2020 Graduation Ceremony**

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Dear Merced College Students,

The health and safety of our students is of the utmost importance to Merced College. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has challenged us to make difficult decisions to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and “flatten the curve.”

Based on recent guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Merced County Public Health, Merced College has made the difficult decision to indefinitely postpone the May 2020 graduation ceremony.

Students meeting graduation requirements will still graduate from Merced College without the graduation ceremony and should continue to apply for graduation. In an effort to help you move forward with the graduation application process, counselors are available to help you. Please call the Counseling Department to schedule a graduation application appointment. Remote appointments will be available.

- For Merced Campus students call 209-381-6478
- For the Los Banos Campus 209-826-3495.

While we know this is a stressful time, we look forward to celebrating your achievements with you at a later date. Merced College will provide details regarding future graduation ceremony opportunities as they become available.

We are proud to soon welcome you to our alumni family and encourage you to stay connected at <http://www.mccd.edu/alumni/index.html>