



Frequently Asked Questions: 2016 Cultural Graduate Celebrations

<u>LAVENDER (LGBTQIA)</u>	<u>APA</u>	<u>BLACK</u>	<u>LATINO</u>
Thursday, 5/12 5 to 7 p.m. Hagerty	Saturday 5/14 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon Hagerty	Thursday 5/19 6 to 9 p.m. Soda	Friday 5/20 9 to 11 a.m. SMC Chapel

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, 4/13 by 4:30 p.m. No exceptions.

Q: What is the purpose of the Cultural Graduate Celebrations?

A: These celebrations honor the importance of breaking barriers within higher education for historically underrepresented and/or traditionally marginalized groups. They also affirm the different experiences and paths that lead to academic success.

Q: Who may participate?

A: Any SMC student who is eligible to participate in undergraduate or graduate Commencement, OR any student in their last year at Saint Mary's as a nursing/engineering major may participate in any of the Cultural Graduate Celebrations. Students should also check with the Registrar to confirm that they are on track to graduate and have submitted all necessary paperwork. Participating students are not required to identify as APA, Black, Latino, or LGBTQI and may identify as an ally to one of these groups

Q: What is the difference between a Cultural Graduate Celebration and the campus-wide Commencement?

A: Cultural Graduate Celebrations are simply that – celebrations. There is no degree conferred nor do they replace Commencement. They are similar to the celebrations sponsored by other programs or departments on campus that do something special at the end of the academic year to honor their graduating students.

Q: Is there a cost?

A: There is no cost to participate; however, there is a cost if students would like to purchase a kente cloth, sash, or announcement.

Q: What if we want to order a kente cloth or sash but not participate?

A: Only students participating in one of the Cultural Graduate Celebrations may order a kente cloth or sash through the Intercultural Center. Participants will receive a discount through the Intercultural Center's vendor. Non-participants may directly order their own kente cloths or sashes from a vendor at full-price.

Q: When will I receive my kente cloth, sash, and/or announcements?

A: Announcements will be available to pick up at the IC starting April 22, 2016. The IC will email you in May when your kente cloth and/or sash has arrived.

Q: How many people may I invite to the ceremony?

A: There is no limit on the number of people you may invite, but seating, food, and drinks will be on a first-come-first-served basis. It is your responsibility to invite individuals to this event.

Q: Will there be a rehearsal?

A: No, there will not be a rehearsal

Q: When and where should my kente cloth/sash presenter(s) and I arrive?

A: Please arrive with your kente cloth/sash no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time? **Students who arrive late will not be allowed to participate (it is your responsibility to notify your presenters of when and where to arrive)**

Q: What should we do when we arrive?

A: With the other participants, please line up in alphabetical order by the last name. Kente/sash presenters should form a second line next to their respective student participant. An IC staff member will assist in the process.

Q: What should I wear?

A: APA: Business casual (no cap and gown) **Black:** All black and business casual (no cap and gown) **Latino:** Gowns over business casual (no cap) **Lavender:** Business casual (no caps and gowns)

Q: Will my kente/sash presenter(s) sit next to me during the ceremony?

A: No, student participants will sit in front of the room facing the audience, whereas kente cloth/sash presenters will have reserved seats in the audience. An IC staff member will direct people.

Q: Will I have an opportunity to speak publicly during the ceremony?

A: All participants will have an opportunity to speak publicly for one minute except in the Latino Graduate Celebration. These participants will only have 30 seconds due to the large number of participants. This time is an opportunity to thank family and friends as well as share personal challenges and triumphs in college. A bell will ring at the end of your time limit to help you be courteous to others.

Q: Will my sash presenter(s) have an opportunity to speak publicly?

A: It is a Saint Mary's tradition for sash presenters at the Lavender Graduate Celebration to speak publicly for one minute. This is not the case for the other celebrations.

Q: Will food or beverages be served?

A: Appetizers and/or desserts along with non-alcoholic beverages will be served at each reception except for the Latino Graduate Celebration. Due to the timing of this event, a light lunch will be provided. Alcohol is not allowed at any of the celebrations.