



California State University **Chico**  
Graduate Studies

**Graduate Studies Graduate Student Commencement Speaker**

**Application Spring 2026**

Graduate Studies is seeking applications from graduating master's students interested in serving as the master's commencement student speaker at the 2026 Master's Commencement Ceremony on Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

Thank you for your interest in serving as the Master's Student Commencement Speaker. This is a prestigious honor awarded to a student who has demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and an inspiring vision for their peers. **Applications are due February 20, 2026, by 5 p.m.**

**Student Eligibility Requirements:** Students must have filed for graduation, complete their master's degree program requirements by Spring 2026, and register for commencement.

**Application**

Please provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Term: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Nomination Questions (Required):** In one or two paragraphs per question, please provide thoughtful responses to the following:

1. Overview of your speaking experience and abilities in public speaking situations such as class presentations, lectures, and/or research presentations.
2. Provide a short description of why you are interested in serving as the student speaker and a potential theme or message of the speech you would like to deliver at commencement.
3. Tell us about your pathway to graduate school.
4. What has been your experience as a graduate student? Tell us about challenges, accomplishments, what surprised you, biggest rewards etc.
5. What is the best advice you could give to a new graduate student about succeeding in their studies and/or professional aspirations?

**Faculty Recommender (Required):** Please provide the name of a faculty member who can speak to your experiences as a role model, a leader, or scholar, or to your service and other contributions to the University or community.

Faculty Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The selection committee will be calling the faculty member you have listed. Be sure to inform the faculty member that you have listed them as a recommender.

## Submission Instructions

Please submit the completed application, including the responses to the questions and resume/CV, by **February 20, 2026, 5 p.m.** by email to [graduatestudies@csuchico.edu](mailto:graduatestudies@csuchico.edu) with the **subject line: Student Commencement Speaker.**

For any questions, please contact JoAna Brooks at [jmbrooks@csuchico.edu](mailto:jmbrooks@csuchico.edu) or 530-898-4110.

We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating the achievements of our graduate students!

## Selection Process and Timeline

- **February 20:** Nominee Applications are due by 5 p.m.
- **February 25-27:** Nominee interviews
- **March 6:** Selection of Student Commencement Speaker
- **March 11:** Speaker photo
- **April 3:** Submit a draft speech that is no more than **three minutes in length** (375-word count limit) due to the Office of Graduate Studies to JoAna Brooks, [jmbrooks@csuchico.edu](mailto:jmbrooks@csuchico.edu)
- **Mid-April:** Speaker Coaching and Practice
- **May 1:** Commencement speech finalized
- **May 13:** Master's Commencement Ceremony