

November 16, 2015

Dear Graduation Applicant:

For the ninth year in a row, commencement exercises at Crafton Hills College will include a speech delivered by a graduating student. The faculty, staff and administration of the college are seeking students who are interested in representing your graduation class as this speaker. The student who is ultimately chosen for this honor will deliver a four to five minute speech commemorating the occasion of your graduation.

To be eligible, students must participate in the commencement exercises on Friday, May 21. To apply, fill out the attached application and begin work on the manuscript of your speech. In the speech, you should identify a theme or message you wish to impart on your classmates and those in attendance, and then develop that theme using stories, anecdotes, quotes and other appropriate information. ***Initial applications are due no later than March 14*** and should be returned to the Department of Student Life (SC 107).

***Interested students will be notified of the receipt of their application and be invited to the auditions. The Audition will take place the week after Spring Break 2016.*** During this audition, faculty and staff in the Department of Speech Communication and the Department of Student Life will judge the performances of all applicants and select the commencement speaker as well as an alternate. Both speakers will then be expected to work with Speech Communication faculty throughout the second half of the semester to rehearse his/her speech in preparation for commencement. The commencement speaker will speak at the commencement ceremony the evening of May 21 while the alternate will speak at the Graduates' Breakfast that morning (and at the commencement ceremony in the event the speaker is unable to attend).

We are excited about the opportunity to have more student participation in the commencement exercises at Crafton Hills College and hope that you will consider this opportunity. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Ericka Paddock  
Director of Student Life

Jim Urbanovich  
Assistant Professor, Speech Communication

**APPLICATION  
2016 STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge my interest in being the student speaker at Commencement on May 21, 2016. I understand that I will be prepared to deliver a draft of my four to five minute (approximately 600 to 800 words) manuscript speech at my scheduled audition time. If I am selected as the winner or alternate, I further understand I will be expected to devote time and effort revising and rehearsing my speech with faculty and staff in preparation for commencement and/or graduates' breakfast

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (Name and Phone Number) \_\_\_\_\_

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How long have you been a student at Crafton Hills College? \_\_\_\_\_

References: Please list the names of **two** faculty or staff who can speak to your academic and personal qualifications.

\_\_\_\_\_

Why you would like to be student commencement speaker?

What are your educational goals and career aspirations?

Describe any previous public speaking experience you have had.

I am willing to serve as the alternate speaker.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS FORM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE (CCR 134) NO LATER  
THAN MARCH 14, 2016.**