



Book	Siskiyou Joint Community College District Administrative Procedures
Section	Chapter 5: Student Services
Title	Student Commencement Speaker
Code	AP 5551
Status	Active
Last Revised	April 17, 2024
Origin	Vice President, Student Services
Office	Public Relations/Student Services

To select the student Commencement speaker each year, the following process will be used:

Nomination of Speaker Candidates

Speakers can be self-nominated or may be recruited by any employee of the College. Nomination forms will be available by the end of March from various locations, including the Public Relations Office, Student Services Office, or Commencement webpage.

Nomination Criteria

The Commencement speaker should be an outstanding student at the College as demonstrated by possessing two or more of the traits listed below:

- Exhibit motivation and follow-through
- Achieve academic excellence as evidenced by their grades
- Demonstrate leadership abilities
- Participate in campus and community activities

They should have a petition to graduate on file in Counseling Services (or have graduated in the current academic year).

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall consist of:

- Two volunteer faculty members (preferably one with communication/speech evaluation expertise)
- One student who is selected by the Associated Student Board
- One staff member who is selected by the Administrative Support/Management or Classified staff

If appointments cannot be made by the aforementioned constituencies, then the selection committee will move forward with those who are appointed.

Audition Process

Audition: The nominees will participate in an audition. This audition will be held sometime between mid-April and the beginning of May.

The Speech: Each year the committee will select a theme. The speech should be no more than five (5) minutes in length. The written speech must be submitted to the Public Relations Office by the deadline stated on the application. Students who do not follow the timeline as listed on the application will not be able to participate in the audition.

Selection Criteria: The following criteria will be used to evaluate speeches:

1. Content: Does the speech have a clear thesis that is supported with interesting, meaningful examples and ideas?
2. Relevance of Theme: Does the theme relate to Commencement, College of the Siskiyous (COS), student life while attending COS, etc.?
3. Delivery: How well is the speech received by the listener? Was there sufficient eye contact? Does the speaker talk with feeling? Each candidate will be evaluated on a point basis, ten (10) points being the highest for each criteria listed above, and zero (0) being the lowest. Thirty (30) total points are possible. Each candidate will be evaluated on a point basis, ten (10) points being the highest for each criteria listed above, and zero (0) being the lowest. Thirty (30) total points are possible.

Notification: Participants will be contacted to thank them for their participation in the audition and the selected speaker will be notified. The selected speaker will meet with the Public Relations Officer prior to the Commencement ceremony to review the timeline of the participation requirements.

Reviewed and approved by Superintendent/President Dr. Char Perlas on April 17, 2024.