What are my options for attending virtual events?
The University Commencement ceremony will be on Friday May 15 at 6:30 pm and can be accessed from the university homepage. Many details can be found on the Commencement page.

The DC area event will be on Sunday May 17 at 1:00 pm and can be accessed from the NVC homepage. This event will include some of our regional traditions, such as messages from student speakers and a slideshow of events from the previous year.

Both events will be pre-recorded and will be available for viewing at any time afterwards. So don’t worry that you might miss something.

Where can I find the Commencement program or list of names and degrees?
The program for the May 15 events will be posted online shortly before the event goes live. Watch this space for further details.

When and where will my name be read?
Some names may be read in multiple sessions. For example, a graduating PhD student might appear in both the DC session and the Engineering session on Friday night, and then also in the Sunday afternoon DC event. We’ll try to get some more clarity on this topic, and also see if there will be a way to search for yourself.

Friday evening Commencement
- In addition to the main ceremony, there will be breakout sessions for academic Colleges, the Graduate School, Corps of Cadets, etc. Within the Graduate School breakout, there will be sessions for Blacksburg and the DC area.
- DC session will only include students who are graduating in Spring 2020.
- MIT students and many MNR students will be read with Blacksburg. These students are considered virtual campus students, not DC area or National Capital Region.
- The list for Friday evening is derived from those students who applied for degree through HokieSPA by the standard deadline of March 1, so this list has already been finalized.

Sunday afternoon event
- We plan to include graduates from Summer 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Summer 2020, as would be our standard practice for the in-person ceremony.
- We will include virtual campus students from the MIT and MNR programs, which again is our standard practice for the in-person ceremony.
- Our list is derived from those who said they were participating in the DC area spring commencement through HokieSPA. Department staff can also send lists of their
graduates to Susan Merten or Debbie Payne in the GSSO and we’ll cross-check against what we have.

How can I help make this celebration better?
Submit your photo (by May 1) to be included with the Sunday afternoon slideshow.

Here is a sample slide to give you an idea of what we are planning.

Ideally, this would be a picture of you in Commencement regalia (cap and gown), but a regular photo is also fine. If you are waiting on regalia to arrive, you can send us a regular photo now and an updated photo later. Please name the photo “FirstName-LastName” so that it’s easier for us to identify the files. You can send us the photo in a few ways.

a. Email it to Susan Merten (smeren@vt.edu)
b. Upload it using this Google Form (VT login required).
c. Join this open Canvas course and submit the photo as an assignment.

Share a video message with students, faculty and staff in the DC area
The primary mechanism that we have for collecting these messages is Flipgrid, which is designed for classroom sharing of videos. There are several “topics” on the site corresponding to the various Colleges. Check the pulldown menu on the right hand side, just below the image when you first arrive at the site. If you need to input the “Flipcode” for this site, it is wong2459.

If Flipgrid doesn’t work for you, you can also join the following open course on Canvas and submit a video as an assignment. Or you can record a video through your own Zoom/Canvas account and then send the link to Susan Merten and myself.

Post photos or videos on social media and tag with #HokieGrad and #VTDCgrad

Submit a short video (10-20 seconds) or a Cap and Gown photo to University Relations.
In the lead up to commencement, Hokies are encouraged to tag their cap and gown photos with the #HokieGrad hashtag on social media and submit these photos to bit.ly/gradphotosvt20. Hokies are also encouraged to submit video clips of their favorite college memories to bit.ly/vtprojectgrad for a chance to be featured in the Humans of VT video that will play during the Friday evening ceremony.
Encourage alumni, family, and friends to contribute messages to University Relations. Alumni can also submit a 10-20 second video with words of advice for the Class of 2020 by emailing alumni@vt.edu, and friends and family can share a 10-20 second video message to their #HokieGrad via bit.ly/vt20supportvideos.