

**Convocation Deferral Process**

Students wanting to participate in a convocation ceremony are expected to attend the ceremony of their graduation term\*. It is understood that in extenuating and truly exceptional circumstances that are beyond a student's control, there may be times when a student is unable to attend their convocation. There is a process where a student may request a deferral to attend a ceremony in the subsequent session. The request will be reviewed by the Convocation Deferral Committee.

**Please note:**

1. All balances must be paid in full before a student can request a deferral.
2. Family members not being able to attend a ceremony does not constitute an extenuating circumstance. Concordia's convocation ceremonies are streamed live, and are available for viewing via our website at all times at the conclusion of the ceremonies. This permits anyone who is unable to attend the ceremony in person, to view the proceedings either live or at a later time.
3. Guests originating from countries that require a visa to enter Canada must submit their visa requests within a reasonable period to allow for processing prior to the ceremonies. The late submission of a visa request will not be grounds for a convocation deferral.

**Process for requesting a deferral:**

1. Students must submit the Convocation Deferral Request Form and supporting documentation to the Office of the Registrar by the following dates\*:
  - May 1 (wanting to defer from a Spring\* to Fall ceremony)
  - October 1 (wanting to defer from a Fall to Spring ceremony)

*In exceptional circumstances, a request after the event will be considered if the cause is beyond the student's control and is of a compassionate or health-related nature.*

2. The deferral may be for only one convocation cycle (spring to fall or fall to spring). The exception to this is \*Fine Arts whose ceremonies are held once a year in the spring only. These deferral requests would be for the following year's ceremony (ex: 2023 spring ceremony deferred to spring 2024).
3. The request for a deferral must state the extenuating circumstance that prevents the student from attending their convocation ceremony. **Supporting documentation must be provided with the request.**

Students whose deferral requests are approved will receive communications and be granted access to register for the deferred ceremony. Registration is required and space at ceremonies may be limited depending on the number of graduates.

