

Commencement 2012

Student Speaker Application

Graduation will be here before you know it so it is time to share the process to choose the student speaker for Commencement. A graduating senior will be selected to make a three minute presentation at the Commencement Ceremony. Any senior who is participating in the ceremony Saturday, May 26, 2012 may apply. Students who completed their degree requirements in December 2011 may also apply. Your application and presentation will be reviewed by the Speaker Selection Committee for the Class of 2012. The committee will choose five to six finalists and invite those students to deliver their three minute speech before the committee. Those selected must be available to present their speech at this time, please plan accordingly. **All speeches must be original works of the student. Speeches submitted to the Committee are done so with the understanding that they may be printed on the Commencement website.**

The Student Speaker Selection Committee for the Class of 2012 is searching for a creative, inspirational speech and speaker. The committee suggests you consider the following when writing your speech:

Things to consider including:

- Common experiences and future hopes for the graduating class
- Universal themes that could be experienced and appreciated by the UMass Lowell Community
- Specific reference to campus and world events that the graduating seniors have shared work well
- This speech will be heard by family and friends of all the graduates and should be appreciated by all

Things to avoid:

- Being too personal
- Generic speeches are not too successful; if you can replace University of Massachusetts Lowell with any institution name, the speech may not work for your audience
- A little humor is nice but a monologue from a comedy routine is too much
- Ideological speeches (i.e. political or moral views) may be divisive and not appropriate for this forum

Please submit your completed application no later than March 30, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. to:

Dean of Students' Office
University of Massachusetts Lowell
1 University Ave.
Cumnock Hall 1st fl.
Lowell, MA 01854

Time Line for Applicants

March 30	Completed application due
April 2-6	Committee begins review of speeches
April 13	Finalists are chosen and notified
April 19	Oral presentation of speeches by applicants (presentations will begin at 5pm, times will be assigned)
Week of April 23	All participants notified of results
May 26	Commencement Ceremony

All candidates will be judged using the following criteria.

Content (50%)

Intelligent, creative and original: The speech should display intelligence, eloquence, wit, and originality. Avoid the use of clichés.

Appropriateness for graduation: The purpose of the ceremony is to honor our students, and to provide the opportunity for them to celebrate their degree candidacy with family and friends. The speech should be respectful of all attendees and congratulatory in nature.

Relevance and significance: The speaker should have something relevant/significant to say to the student body and attendees.

Well organized, clear message

Accessible to the public: The content should be easily understood by those inside and outside of the University. While the primary audience is the students, please remember the families and friends in attendance.

Welcoming Climate: The message should create drama and a welcoming climate, and have a memorable conclusion.

Effectiveness of Delivery (50%)

Connection with the audience, stage presence, eye contact

Articulateness of delivery, appropriate volume

Energy and personality: the delivery should be lively

Formal, yet conversational delivery style

Grammatical considerations

Delivered within the time specified. Three (3) minutes is the **maximum** time allowed

Additional Information

Be prepared to introduce yourself.

The order of auditions will be determined by lottery.

The auditions may be videotaped to assist the selection committee in making its decision.

A selection committee comprised of students, faculty and staff, chaired by the Dean of Students or his designee will select the speaker.

All candidates will be notified of the committee's decision by letter and/or phone call.

The selected student must be prepared to work with members of the committee after selection to improve presentation skills, as necessary.

The content is to be identical to the content of the speech delivered in the ceremony.