



Graduate Division Commencement is right around the corner.

Dear Colleague,

I hope you continue to find this quarterly newsletter for Graduate Division faculty useful. Please [let us know](#) if you have any suggestions for how to improve it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Watkins
Dean, Graduate Division
Vice Chancellor, Student Academic Affairs
Professor, History of Health Sciences

Commencement

Please remind your students who are eligible to graduate to attend the [Graduate Division Commencement](#) on June 6 at the historic Nourse Theater in San Francisco. Anyone who graduated in the fall or winter quarter or who will graduate in the spring or summer quarter can participate. Commencement is a festive occasion for everyone, but it's especially meaningful to the graduates' family members. Professor Patricia Babbitt will give this year's Commencement Address. Dr. Babbitt is founder and former director of the Biological and Medical Informatics PhD Program.

The deadline for students to register to participate in the ceremony has been extended to May 4. If you are hooding a graduate, please [order your regalia from Josten's](#) by this coming Monday, April 30. If you are planning to attend the event, but you are not hooding a grad, please [register through EventBrite](#), and indicate whether or not you wish to join the processional. (You'll need regalia to participate in the procession, but you can wear your civvies and sit it out if you prefer. And if you cannot attend, Dean Watkins will be happy to hood your graduate.)

Mentorship is Key, and Students Know It

Last spring, the Associated Students of the Graduate

Division (ASGD), in collaboration with Graduate Division staff, developed and administered a survey to gather data about PhD students' perspectives about their mentors. Neuroscience PhD student Rachel Care presented the survey results on behalf of the ASGD at a well-attended town hall event on April 17 at Mission Bay. The [survey report](#) includes several recommendations, including improving mentor training as well as providing more support for students to help them get the most from their mentors.

Help for Students Struggling to Meet their Basic Needs

Living in the Bay Area is expensive, and it won't surprise you that many students have trouble making ends meet. The Basic Needs & Food Security for Students initiative — a collaborative effort of Student Academic Affairs, Student Financial Aid, Student Life, and CLS/Transportation — presents several types of assistance to help students access nutritious food, pay for housing, and get where they need to go. Please be encouraged to share the link to the new [Basic Needs & Food Security website](#) with your students and add the link to your lab or department website.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).