

Sent October 11, 2019



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

To members of the MIT community,

I am writing with important updates about Commencement and Doctoral Ceremonies for 2020 and 2021. As you may be aware, following extensive conversations with faculty, students, and staff, we were considering potential changes to our Commencement structure for the 2020 program. In order to deliver an improved experience for our graduates and their guests, we designed different scenarios to mitigate the space constraints in Killian Court and to reduce the four hour-plus duration of our current program.

Earlier this week, Academic Council made the decision to pause the implementation of these changes for 2020 and to keep the Doctoral Ceremony and Commencement Exercises the same as 2019. Here are the details for the 2020 program:

- **Thursday, May 28, 2020:** Doctoral degree candidates will receive their diplomas and hoods at a morning ceremony in Killian Court. No tickets will be required.
- **Friday, May 29, 2020:** Bachelor's and Master's candidates will receive their diplomas at the Commencement Exercises in Killian Court at 10 am. All 2020 degree candidates are invited; each may receive up to four (4) guest tickets.

Academic Council also decided to move ahead with engaging our community in planning and implementing structural changes for Commencement 2021 and beyond. A committee chaired by Professor James Poterba responsible for this work is in the process of being established. The faculty, students, and staff on this committee will develop plans for a meaningful and celebratory Killian Court experience for all graduates, along with a suite of degree presentation ceremonies that will be held in a range of appropriate venues.

Please direct questions regarding the schedule for 2020 and the new committee to commencement@mit.edu.

Sincerely,

Gayle M. Gallagher
Executive Officer for Commencement
Executive Director
Institute Events and Protocol