



San Diego Community College District

City College · Mesa College · Miramar College · College of Continuing Education

Apply to Graduation

This proposal outlines replacing the phrase “Apply to Graduation” with “Apply for Degree/Certificate” across all student-facing systems and communications. This change was recommended by Academic Advising Workgroup and aligns with terminology already used by local colleges:

Apply to Graduation Language (Region X)

- Palomar: Petition for Graduation: [Graduation – Evaluations and Records](#)
- Imperial Valley: Application for Graduation (aka Graduation Petition) [Graduation](#)
- Cuyamaca College: Apply for Graduation (Graduation Application: Degree/Certificate Application): [Graduation Application](#)
- Grossmont: Application for Graduation: [How to Graduate with a Degree or Certificate](#)
- Southwestern College: Apply for Degree/Certificate: [Apply for Degree/Certificate](#)
- MiraCosta: Graduation Petition: [MiraCosta College | Graduate](#)
- UCSD: File for Degree: [How to File for Your Degree \(Undergraduates\)](#)
- SDSU: Application for Undergraduate Application: [Application for Undergraduate Graduation | Office of the Registrar | SDSU](#)

Why this change

- **Clarity for students:** Many students do not identify with the word “graduation.” “Degree/Certificate” explicitly covers both.
- **Reduces confusion:** Distinguishes degree/certificate completion from the separate commencement ceremony process.
- **Consistency:** Matches language used by peer/local colleges, improving transferability of expectations.
- **Equity & accessibility:** Plainer, inclusive wording benefits new, degree-seeking students.