



Dr. Joseph C. Hoffman
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

State University Distinguished Teaching Professor
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Dear Class of May 2020,

I hope that your transition to distance learning, this your last semester at Maritime, has been a success, and that you and your families are staying safe and healthy. Many of your courses are on their way to being completed by the end of Final Exam Week. However, even with the accommodations that the USCG has given us for our license courses and the innovative ways your instructors have been delivering labs, field work and design courses, there are still a number of courses that will require some form of in-person assessments – something that we cannot offer on-Campus in the remaining weeks of this semester.

In an effort to maximize the number of graduates who will be receiving their degrees and USCG licenses this May, we are moving the Degree Conferral Date from Friday, May 1, 2020 to Friday, May 22, 2020. Hopefully, this will give us two to three weeks after Finals to try and bring small groups of May 2020 graduates safely to Campus to complete their in-person assessments. Students not graduating in May 2020, will have an opportunity to complete their assessments over the summer, during pre-Cruise or at the start of the Fall semester.


Based on some questions we have received, there appears to be some confusion regarding your degree conferral date versus commencement. While we have been forced to postpone the date of commencement, all students who have completed all requirements for their degree by May 22 will receive their degree effective May 22. All students who complete all requirements for degree and license by May 22 will receive their USCG license credentials effective May 22. Although the USCG National Maritime Center is currently facing staffing shortages which may affect when your license credentials are issued, we are continuing to work with the USCG to endeavor to have your license credentials ready for the May 22nd Degree Conferral Date.

We know some of you are facing challenges to complete all requirements for your license, including completing STCW assessments for some license courses and inability to take USCG license exams while the Regional Exam Centers remained closed. We are working with the Coast Guard and MARAD on temporary measures aimed at permitting the class of 2020 to satisfy their license program requirements and graduate in as timely a fashion as possible.

Please note that if you have completed all of your degree requirements and are starting a shore-side job after May 1st, but before May 22nd, we will be happy to provide your employer with a proof-of-degree-completion letter.

I wish you a successful completion of your academic careers here at Maritime College, and although there will not be a commencement ceremony this May, we hope to recognize your accomplishment at a commencement ceremony for you and your families in the months ahead. In the meantime, please know that we are all very proud of your great achievements!

Best regards,


Joseph C. Hoffman