

Student Commencement Speaker Competition

Purpose: To promote Eastern's commitment to strengthening the academic and personal experience for our students and to showcase examples of exemplary writing and speaking, Eastern Illinois University offers the Student Commencement Speaker Series for undergraduate students during the spring commencement ceremonies. The Student Commencement Speaker Series will showcase students eligible for graduation.

A Student Speaker representing the College of Health and Human Services will be featured during the Spring 2019 ceremony on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Commencement Speaker Eligibility Requirements

Graduation Criteria: Students eligible for consideration must provide evidence from the degree audit that they will meet the requirements for graduation in the commencement ceremony they seek to represent. Student commencement speakers are expected to speak at their commencement ceremony.

Scholarship Criteria: Students eligible for consideration must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher for courses completed at Eastern Illinois University at the time that they submit materials for consideration.

Selection Committee: A selection committee comprised of faculty will select potential essays for oral presentation to be given in front of the committee. A final decision will be made based on the quality of the written essay, as well as the quality of the oral presentation.

Submission materials: To compete for the position students must submit a written essay by **4:30 pm on February 28, 2019**. Essays may be uploaded and submitted [online here](#) or delivered in person to the CHHS Dean's Office Room 1030, Klehm Hall. This must also include an endorsement letter from a faculty mentor. Please submit materials to Jake Emmett. **Please note:** If you are a graduate student, then please visit the Graduate School website for graduate student commencement speaker competition guidelines and deadline.

Faculty role: Students seeking to submit essays will identify a faculty mentor to assist with the project. Mentors may include course instructors, advisors, or any member of the faculty who will provide guidance and support appropriate to writing an effective essay. Faculty who serve in mentor roles will introduce the Student Commencement Speaker at the commencement ceremony.

Essay guidelines:

2018-2019 Essay Theme: *Explain how your academic experiences at Eastern Illinois University challenged you to accomplish things you never thought possible and explain how these experiences will continue to influence your future.*

Essay Length: Essays are limited to 3 pages.

Essay Format: Essays are submitted electronically. The first page should include the essay title, author name, and degree program. The essay author should use a standard 12 point font, standard one-inch margins, and double spacing.

Speaker Recognition:

- **Publication:** The Speaker and Alternate Speaker essays will be published electronically on the Student Commencement Speaker web site.
- **Commencement Recognition:** The faculty mentor will have the honor of introducing the speaker and Alternate Speaker. Both the Speaker and Alternate Speaker will be recognized at the conclusion of the speech by the Provost and will receive a plaque in recognition of the honor.