

39th Annual Black/Pan-African Graduation Celebration
Theme: *Still Standing, Always Strong: Excellence Beyond Struggle*

Friday, May 15, 2026 @ 6pm-8pm in the Walter Pyramid
The deadline to register is 5:00 pm Friday, April 10th, 2026.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is Black/Pan-African Graduation Celebration?

- Referred to as Black Grad, it's a ceremony that celebrates Black graduates and their academic achievement. It highlights Black culture, entertainment, speakers, music, and joy.
- Black Grad will take place in person at the Walter Pyramid on Friday, May 15 at 6:00pm. This year's theme is *Still Standing, Always Strong: Excellence Beyond Struggle*.

2. What does the celebration entail?

- The celebration includes brief speeches from honored speakers (including students), cultural performances, and more to honor the graduating Class.
- Watch the YouTube video recap of previous celebrations on the [Black Grad website](#)

3. How do I register?

- Students can register at: csulb.edu/cgc
- Registration is \$65

4. What is included with my registration fee?

- 5 Complimentary Digital Guest Tickets. No ticket is needed for the graduate.
- Unlimited Electronic Announcements
- 1 Traditional Kente Sash
- 1 Program (received day of)

5. Can I buy additional tickets? Is there a limit to how many tickets I can purchase?

- Additional guest tickets may be purchased for \$6 each after the registration deadline, if seating is available, or on the day of Black Grad at the Pyramid Box Office
- There is no limit to how many additional tickets you can buy, but please be mindful and only purchase tickets that you will use

6. Who can attend? Do children need tickets?

- Anyone can attend the graduation celebration! Family, friends, and loved ones are welcome to join us!
- Children under the age of 2 do not require a ticket; if they are not taking up a seat

7. Where will I receive updates about the event or my registration status?

- All registered students will receive updates via email
- Information will also be shared via the Black Resource Center Instagram account [@csulbbrc](#).

8. Can I be a student speaker? Do I need to submit a speech?

- Yes! To apply to be a student speaker: [Student Speaker Application](#)
- If you would like to be in consideration to deliver a speech for Black Grad, you must:
 - Submit a [Student Speaker Application](#)
 - Submit your speech to blackgrad@csulb.edu
 - Be a Fall 25, Winter 25, Spring 26, or Summer 26 Graduate
- All student speeches must:
 - Must be a maximum of 3 minutes long
 - Must incorporate this year's Black Grad theme: ***Still Standing, Always Strong: Excellence Beyond Struggle***
 - Must be submitted via email to blackgrad@csulb.edu by February 28, 2026 @5:00pm
- Candidates will be notified by **March 13, 2026**, if they have been chosen as the student speaker. All candidates will be notified via email once the

speaker has been selected. A formal announcement will also be made via Black Resource Center Instagram account [@csulbbrc.](#)

- The planning committee will review all speeches and select a speaker based on the previously mentioned criteria