We are all so proud of your accomplishments! As we begin to plan this year’s virtual Commencement, know that we are planning an exciting event centered on you and your graduating class. Before your big day, please prioritize these important activities:

#1) Prepare to Graduate:
Carefully review the Graduation Checklist and make sure you are completing all the necessary steps to graduate, especially:

- Apply for graduation in MyColumbia
- Review your advising guide in MyColumbia
- Columbia Central Exit Counseling (required for students with loans)
- Attend GradExpo in the Engage Portal on February 26th
- Read through the FAQs about Commencement

#2) Prepare for Your Career:
With graduation approaching, get the support you need to start your career after Columbia. Work with the team at the Career Center to help enhance your resume, cover letter, and portfolio in one-on-one appointments or at a workshop. Connect with professionals at industry-related events. Utilize Handshake to search for jobs, register for workshops/events, and request appointments with Career Center staff. Showcase your skills on Columbia’s free creative network, Portfolium. It’s your personal website that allows you to connect with peers, document your work and experience, and be found by employers. For updates, event announcements, career advice, student highlights, and more, follow the Career Center on Instagram @columcareer.

#3) Participate in Manifest:
Manifest 2021 is the 20th anniversary of this iconic student event! Showcasing your body of work for your family and friends at Manifest is will be a highlight of your academic career. You will soon hear from your department on how to get started, as there are myriad ways to participate. We also encourage you to stay tuned to the manifest.colum.edu website for details!

#4) Watch Your Ceremony:
Your Commencement ceremony will be available for viewing on the College’s main website on May 15th. Gather your family and friends, decorate, take pictures and celebrate your special day! Regularly check the Commencementwebsite and your Columbia email for important updates.
#5) Plan to Stay Connected

You’re almost a Columbia alum! What’s next? In the weeks after graduation, you’ll receive an email to activate your alumni account. There are tens of thousands of successful #columalum waiting for you to join them. Here are some steps you can take today!

1. Visit alumni.colum.edu. Login and update your contact info
2. Link your social media accounts and find new ways to network
3. Access post-graduation career resources
4. Sign up for communications to receive the latest news and event invites
5. Use #columalum after graduation for all of your social media posts

And be sure to follow us!

Facebook: Columbia College Chicago Alumni
Twitter: ColumAlum
Instagram: Columalum
LinkedIn: Columbia College Chicago ALUMNI

Again, I congratulate you on your accomplishments, now get ready to go out and “author the culture of your time.”

Sincerely,