POLICY STATEMENT
Upstate Medical University confers degrees on December 30 for students who complete by the end of the Fall semester, either the May ceremony date (varies each year) or June 10 for students who complete by the end of the Spring semester, and August 30 for students who complete by the end of the summer semester.

PROCEDURES FOR DEGREE CONFERRAL
In order for a degree to be conferred on a given date, a student must have completed all of the degree requirements no later than the last business day prior to the degree conferral date. Upstate recognizes that in some instances a student may meet degree requirements through transfer credit from another institution. In such cases, all requirements still need to be completed by the last business day prior to the degree conferral date. However, the degree will not be conferred until official transcripts are received documenting successful completion of approved transfer credit. Official transcripts must be received by the Registrar’s Office within 30 days of the anticipated degree conferral date or the degree will not be conferred retroactively and the student’s anticipated degree conferral date will be delayed until the next regularly scheduled degree conferral date.

PROCEDURES FOR COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPATION
While Upstate Medical University confers degrees at the end of each semester, all Colleges have only one Commencement ceremony in May. Students are invited to participate in the May Commencement ceremony based on their degree conferral date. All students whose degree is conferred in May, June, August, or December of a given year are invited to participate in the Commencement ceremony for that given year. As an example, for the 2017-2018 academic year, students who complete their requirements by the end of the Spring semester (degree conferred either May 20, 2018 or June 10, 2018), the Summer semester (degree conferred August 30, 2018), the Fall semester (degree conferred December 30, 2018 or August 30, 2018 for PA students), are invited to participate in the May 2018 Commencement ceremony.

Students graduating in December who wish to participate in the Commencement ceremony of the following calendar year may do so by notifying the Registrar’s Office, via email, between January 15 and March 15 of the year they wish to participate. Notification of participation after March 15 will jeopardize student inclusion in the Commencement Bulletin.

RESPONSIBILITIES
Student policies and their effectiveness are reviewed annually as the Student Handbook is updated.