POLICY STATEMENT

DRAFT

Student Commencement Accessories: Cords, Medallions, and Stoles

**SU Policy Number:**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE**
Office of the Provost

**PURPOSE**
This policy specifies the criteria and procedures for student use of regalia as well as other symbols of distinction or ornamentation at University commencement exercises. The University recognizes the importance of accessories such as cords, medallions, and stoles in symbolizing academic achievement and the value of acknowledging achievement not only in honor societies but also in recognized college organizations. In recent years, the University has seen an increasing number of requests for students to be allowed to wear such symbols of distinction as cords, medallions, and stoles.

**SCOPE**
This policy applies to all graduates participating in University commencement ceremonies.

**OBJECTIVE**
To provide uniform guidance about regalia as well as other symbols of distinction or ornamentation worn by students at University commencement exercises.

**DEFINITIONS**

Academic Honors at Shippensburg University include the following distinctions:

**Academic Honors Designation:** Recognition signifying that a student has graduated with one of the following distinctions associated with level of cumulative QPA (Quality Point Average): Cum Laude (3.40 or better), Magna Cum Laude (3.60 or better), Summa Cum Laude (3.80 or better).

University Honors College Designation: Students who graduate with the University Honors College designation have completed at least 36 credits of Honors coursework, including an Honors capstone project, and have maintained a minimum 3.25 cumulative QPA overall and in their Honors courses.

College Honors Program Designation: Students who graduate with the College Honors Program designation entered the Honors program as juniors and completed the 12-credit upper division component of the program and maintained a minimum 3.25 cumulative QPA overall and in their Honors courses.
General Education Honors College Designation: Students who graduate with the General Education Honors College designation have completed at least 24 credit hours of Honors general education coursework and maintained a minimum 3.25 cumulative QPA overall and in their Honors courses.

Symbols of distinction include the following:
Graduation cord: An accessory symbolizing academic achievement. Such an accessory typically consists of twisted cords with tassels on either end. More specifically, a graduation cord symbolizes academic achievement or membership in a recognized academic honor group or society. By tradition, more than one cord may be worn at the same time.

Medallion: An accessory symbolizing academic achievement as measured by cumulative QPA or by fulfillment of Honors requirements.

Stole: An accessory symbolizing achievement. This can include acknowledgement of academic achievement by academic honor societies or acknowledgement of achievement by recognized college student organizations. A graduation stole is a decorative cloth scarf-like garment worn by members of recognized college organizations and featuring the organization's colors and/or insignia.

POLICY
Qualifying students may wear graduation cords. More than one graduation cord may be worn at the same time.

Students qualifying academically may wear a medallion, which signifies this achievement.

Members of organizations based on academic merit are eligible to wear graduation stoles representing such honor groups or societies. Members of organizations based on non-academic recognition are eligible to wear graduation stoles with the approval of the Dean of Students. A GRADUATING STUDENT MAY WEAR ONLY ONE STOLE OF THEIR CHOOSING. THE STUDENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF ANY SUCH REGALIA.

RESPONSIBILITIES
Provost, Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students

PROCEDURES
Any student wanting to wear a graduation stole must submit a Graduation Cords and Stoles Request to obtain approval for these graduation accessories to be worn at commencement. All such accessories must be approved each year in order to be worn at graduation. Requests will be answered within seven business days.

Deadline for completion of this request is November 1 for anticipated Fall Semester graduation and April 1 for anticipated Spring Semester graduation.

Submit Graduation Cords and Stoles Request to the Dean of Students for non-academic student organization requests at Deanstu@ship.edu.

RECISSION
Not applicable.
APPROVALS
President's Cabinet: October 8, 2018

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