



POLICY STATEMENT

Student Commencement Accessories: Cords, Medallions, and Stoles

SU Policy Number: 201-001.1

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.

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 activities.

DEFINITIONS

Academic Honors at Shippensburg University include the following distinctions:

Academic Honors Designation: Recognition signifying that an undergraduate 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).

Wood Honors College Designation: Undergraduate students who graduate with the Wood Honors College designation have completed the Honors curriculum, including the Honors capstone project, and have maintained a minimum 3.25 cumulative QPA overall and in their Honors courses.

General Education Honors Program Designation: Undergraduate students who graduate with the General Education Honors Program designation have completed the Honors general education curriculum and have 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 organizations 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 of Student Affairs, Dean of Students

PROCEDURES

Undergraduate students that qualify for an academic honor graduation cord will receive the cord from the University bookstore when they purchase their graduation regalia.

Undergraduate students wanting to wear graduation cords other than an academic honor graduation cord, a medallion or an academic stole will obtain the symbol from the group, society, or organization of which you are a member.

Graduate students wanting to wear graduation cords, a medallion or an academic stole will obtain the symbol from the group, society, or organization of which you are a member.

Any student wanting to wear a **non-academic** stole must submit a [Stole Request](#) Form 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. The deadline for completion of this request is November 1 for anticipated fall semester graduation and April 1 for anticipated spring semester graduation. The request should be submitted to Deanstu@ship.edu.

APPROVALS

President's Cabinet: October 8, 2018

EMT: March 28, 2023

FILENAME

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DATE

3/28/23

DISTRIBUTION

Public