

Guide to Academic Regalia

The origins of academic regalia date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form. The first gowns were patterned after the dress of the cleric and were believed to be a necessity for warmth in unheated buildings. Hoods were designed to serve as cover for the tonsured head. Caps were not used at that time. It wasn't until late 19th century that colors were assigned to signify degrees. The color used should be indicative of the subject to which the degree pertains. For example, the velvet for the degree of Master of Science in Education should be light blue, representing education, rather than gold, representing science. No academic hood should ever represent more than a single degree.

In the case of the Ph.D. degree, the dark blue color is used to represent the mastery of the discipline of learning and scholarship in any field that is attested to be the awarding of this degree and is not intended to represent the field of philosophy.

For all academic purposes, the colors associated with the different disciplines are as follows:

Accountancy	Drab	Horticulture	Maize
Agriculture	Maize	Humanities	White
Anthropology	Gold	Journalism	Crimson
Architecture	Blue-Violet	Jurisprudence	Purple
Arts	White	Law	Purple
Auditory	Rhodes Blue	Letters	White
Biochemistry	Gold	Library Science	Lemon
Business Administration	Drab	Literature	White
Chiropractic	Grey	Medicine	Hunter Green
City Planning	Blue-Violet	Music	Pink
Civil Engineering	Orange	Nursing	Apricot
Commerce	Drab	Oratory (Speech)	Silver
Communication	Crimson	Optometry	Seafoam
Counseling & Guidance	Lt Blue	Pharmacy	Olive Green
Dentistry	Lilac	Philosophy	Ph.D. Blue
Divinity	Scarlet	Physical Education	Sage Green
Dramatic Arts	Brown	Physical Therapy	Teal
Economics	Copper	Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Education	Lt Blue	Public Health	Salmon
Engineering	Orange	Physics	Brit Gold
English	White	Science	Brit Gold
Fine Arts	Brown	Social Work	Citron
Foreign Service	Peacock Blue	Speech	Silver
Forestry	Russet	Theology	Scarlet
History	White	Urban Planning	Blue-Violet
Home Economics	Maroon	Veterinary Science	Grey