



Macebearers

Role and Responsibilities:

The Macebearer is the most high-profile volunteer position and is in charge of the Chancellor's Party and Procession. As the most prominent academic procession, this position is only open to faculty members.

Responsibilities include:

- confirming all participants are present in the Robing Room (Great Performers Lounge, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts)
- lining up the participants in the order as prepared by the Ceremonies and Events Office
- giving the participants guidance on when and where to sit
- leading them to and from the Chan Shun Concert Hall.
- **And, of course, the Macebearer carries the University Mace.**

In the Robing Room:

The Macebearer should arrive at the Great Performers Lounge at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the ceremony and check in with the Ceremonies and Events staff onsite.

For every ceremony, a list of participants is prepared with specific seating and procession orders. This list will be available on the day from the Ceremonies staff and will also be posted on the wall of the Robing Room so that the participants can check where they are seated and where they are walking in procession.

Approximately 10 minutes before the procession is due to leave, the participants should be lined up by calling out their names and putting them in order (Ceremonies and Events staff can assist, if required).

Upon notice that the Faculty Procession has lined up and is waiting in the lobby at the entrance to the Chan Shun Concert Hall, the Chancellor's Party and Procession are led by the Macebearer down the stairs and into Concert Hall.

In the Concert Hall:

The Macebearer leads the Chancellor's Party and Procession to the far set of doors leading into the Chan Shun Concert Hall. The Faculty Procession will already be waiting there. Please ensure that all members of the Chancellor's Party and Procession, particularly the President and Chancellor, are present before advising the Senior Marshal that the Procession is ready to proceed.



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When ready, the Senior Marshall provides this confirmation to the University Marshal, who is on stage, and who in turn signals the conductor to begin the procession music. The Faculty Procession precedes the Chancellor's Party and Procession. Ideally there should be just a small gap between the two processions as they process onto the stage (to allow time for the University Marshal to guide the faculty into their seats).

The Macebearer processes onto the stage (audience right), walks right across the stage to the last seat and stands, shouldering the Mace, until the Chancellor arrives at the Chancellor's chair. At this point the Macebearer places the Mace on the stand at the front of the stage, with the smaller end pointing towards the centre of the stage. The Macebearer generally has no other role during the ceremony, unless special circumstances require the Macebearer to provide assistance to the University and Senior Marshals.

At the end of the ceremony, following the President's closing remarks, the Macebearer steps forward, shoulders the Mace and steps towards the stairs (stage right), pausing for the Chancellor, Honorary Degree Recipient (if present) and President to follow. Once those three are in position, the Macebearer leads them down the stairs and out of the Chan Centre. The Registrar follows with the rest of the Chancellor's Party and Procession participants. The Faculty Procession follows, led by the Faculty Marshals, and finally the graduates are led out.

To facilitate the quick, safe exiting of the guests from the Chan Centre, it is **very** important for the Macebearer to lead the procession out of the Chan, up the steps all the way to the Flag Pole Plaza which will encourage the rest of the processions to do the same. This will help avoid any congestion with those waiting to enter the Chan for the next ceremony. NOTE: In inclement weather, the Macebearer should simply lead the Chancellor's Party and Procession directly back to the Robing Room (Great Performer's Lounge).

Following the ceremony:

Once at the Flag Pole Plaza, the procession usually breaks ranks for conversation and photographs so the responsibility of the Macebearer with respect to leading the procession is over. Frequently, students and their family members want to have photos taken with the Macebearer, the Chancellor and/or various members of the platform party. Please accommodate these requests if possible. However, please remember that the Mace needs to be back in the Robing Room no later than 20 minutes before the next ceremony. At the end of the day (following the last ceremony) the Mace needs to be returned to the Robing Room no later than a half hour after the end of the ceremony.