



Background

The guidelines outlined below have been developed by the Ceremonies & Events units at UBC. They serve as means to provide students with additional information about academic regalia used during graduation ceremonies. Guidelines are also used to assist staff in operating practices. These guidelines are reviewed at regular intervals at the discretion of unit leadership and may be updated to align with institutional guidelines and practices and/or industry standards and practices.

UBC Academic Regalia Guidelines (Students)

The gowns, hoods and mortarboards worn by faculty and graduating students at the graduation ceremonies evolved from clothes worn by European scholars in the 12th century to authenticate degrees. The University of British Columbia has taken pride in continuing this tradition since our first ceremony in 1916.

Required Attire

All individuals participating in the graduation ceremonies at the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses are required to wear academic regalia. This includes graduating students, faculty, administration and invited guests who will be seated on stage as well as volunteers.

Academic regalia includes a gown, hood and headwear appropriate to the degree being granted. Any form of attire (formal, uniform, business, traditional, or casual) may be worn underneath the gown. Footwear must always be worn.

Adornments (stoles, honor cords, etc.):

- Nothing is permitted to be added to the UBC academic regalia (either permanent or temporary);
- This includes honor cords, stoles, or any other adornment;
- If faculties, departments or student groups wish to hand out honor cords or stoles, they may do so at their own departmental/faculty event prior to or following the main university ceremony;
- If these items are handed out before the main university ceremony, students must remove them prior to attending the official university ceremony.

If you have any questions, please contact ceremonies.graduation@ubc.ca (Vancouver campus) or okanagan.ceremonies@ubc.ca (Okanagan campus).



Information for Indigenous Students

In this context, Indigenous is referring to status and non-status First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples of Canada, in accordance with the *BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), which defines “Indigenous peoples” as aboriginal peoples under section 35(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.)

Information for Indigenous Students is provided to support the [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#), in particular –

Goal 5, Action 21: Dedicate spaces for Indigenous students, faculty and staff to practice and celebrate their cultures.

Goal 8, Action 38: Review all university policies and operational practices to ensure they support the recognition of Indigenous peoples’ human rights, and the equity and inclusion of Indigenous students, faculty, staff and community members.

- Indigenous students as noted above may wear their traditional regalia in place of the academic gown and hat but they must have the hood, the colour and style of which acknowledges the academic degree they have earned;
- For the 2023 calendar year, the Senates of UBC in [Vancouver](#) and the [Okanagan](#) have approved the adornment of mortarboard caps by graduands to reflect their Indigenous identity through the use of decorative traditions for graduation ceremonies;
- Undergraduate and Masters’ students should wear their hood over their regalia or draped over their left arm;
- In the case of the PhD, EdD or DMA candidates, they should carry the hood over their left arm and be prepared to be hooded on stage by the President;
- The hood is the recognition of the student’s achievement and success and the only time that they will ever acknowledge this particular achievement so it is an important part of the academic tradition;
- Individual hoods (without gowns) cannot currently be booked through the Bookstore online booking system but hoods can be rented on the day in the regalia pick-up area and can be paid for by cash, credit or debit.

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