

Commencement Accoutrements Protocol
Effective May 2016

We hold all of our graduates in high esteem and recognize their achievements at Commencement, a ceremony at which we celebrate the unity of the body of undergraduates and honor their academic achievements. Although there is no set protocol for Commencement regalia, members of organizations, not based on academic merit, may be eligible to wear appropriate graduation stoles, honor cords, and/or pins, badges or insignias with the approval of the Dean of Students Office. If you or your organization is interested in wearing these accoutrements, please submit your request in writing to the Dean of Students Office at vcudean@vcu.edu.

In addition to the traditional cap and gown regalia worn at this event, students are entitled to wear honor cords and stoles to signify achievement through college organizations or association with international groups or programs. The student/organization/group is responsible for the cost of any such regalia. Graduation stoles and honor cords must be in keeping with the decorum of the event and within the following guidelines:

***GRADUATION STOLE:** A stole takes the form of a cloth scarf-like garment worn over the shoulders adorned with the organization's colors and/or insignia. A student may wear only one stole at a time.

***HONOR CORD:** An honor cord is a token consisting of twisted cords with tassels on either end. The cord signifies specific academic achievement or membership in a recognized academic honor group or society. More than one cord may be worn at the same time.

***PINS/INSIGNIA/BADGES:** These items are tokens specifying academic achievement or membership in a recognized academic honor group or student organization. These items are traditionally worn on the gown. More than one of these items may be worn at the same time.

All three items may be worn simultaneously as long as they do not conflict in appearance with the official stoles worn by faculty marshals or other designated members participating in the ceremony.