

SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

Policy Name:

University Policy on Commencement Regalia and Adornments (Cords and Stoles)

Effective Date:

Dec 19, 2023

Last Approved:

Dec 17, 2024

I. Policy Scope

This policy aims to set standards related to student academic regalia and student adornments worn at Simmons commencement ceremonies and to clarify in which cases the University will purchase cords and stoles. The policy applies to baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral graduates of Simmons University.

II. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with acceptable regalia and student adornments and to clarify confusion among graduating students about what is allowed. The policy outlines the acceptable cords and regalia that students may receive/ purchase and wear to Simmons Commencement. Additionally, the policy indicates which cords and stoles are purchased by the student and which are purchased by the university.

III. Definitions

Define terms that have specialized or particular meanings in the policy.

- **Cord-** Twisted colored strings with tassels worn as a sign of academic achievement
- **Regalia-** Clothing overdressings worn at Commencement may include robes, caps, hoods, tassels, etc.
- **Stoles-** Fabric sashes draped over the shoulders worn to denote achievement or participation in an organization

IV. Responsibilities and Procedures

Academic Regalia (Student Purchased)

Bachelor's candidates

- Traditional navy blue gown.
- Caps are mortarboards; tassels are navy blue.

Master's candidates

- Traditional navy blue gown with full-length square sleeves with a crescent of cloth hanging from each sleeve.
- The master's hoods are lined in blue and white and colors appropriate to the program.

- Caps are traditional mortarboards with tassels appropriate to the program.

Doctoral candidates

- Black customized regalia with full rounded sleeves, velvet facing on the front, and velvet bars on the sleeves.
- Hoods are lined with blue and white and colors appropriate to the program.
- Doctoral candidates wear a tam.

Approved Cords and Stoles (University Purchased)

The University will purchase cords for Bachelor’s candidates with the following academic honors. Cords/Stoles are used to indicate academic honors and are not to be used for other purposes:

- Academy: Blue and Gold Cord (UG)
- Honors Program: Blue and White Cord (UG)
- Latin Honors: Red, Silver, and Gold Cords (UG)
- Dotson Scholar: Stole (UG)
- NCAA Honor Society: Stole (UG)
- Kotzen Scholar: Light Blue and Dark Blue Cord (UG)
- Boston Scholars: Dark Blue and Red Cord (UG)

Approved Honor Membership Cords & Pins (Student Purchased)

Students may purchase the following academic honor membership cords on their own. Please note that university funds may not be used to purchase honor membership cords.

Alpha Sigma Lambda	Purchase Here
Beta Gamma Sigma	Purchase Here
Alpha Delta Sigma	Purchase Here
SigmaTheta Tau (Nursing)	Purchase Here
Biology Beta Beta Beta	Purchase Here
English Sigma Tau Delta	Purchase Here
Computer Science Pledge of the Computer Professional	Purchase Here
French Pi Delta Phi	Purchase Here
Mathematics Pi Mu Epsilon	Purchase Here
Psychology Psi Chi	Purchase Here
Sciences Sigma Xi	Individual Membership
Social Work (Undergraduate) Phi Alpha	Purchase Here
Sociology Alpha Kappa Delta	Purchase Here

Approved Affinity Stoles (Student Purchased)

Students are welcome to purchase cultural, ethnic, or affinity stoles as part of their Commencement regalia that best represents their identity. Reputable vendors such as [Midwest Global Group](#) offer a wide variety of stoles, including but not limited to AAPI Stoles, First Gen Stoles, Kente Stoles, LGBTQIA Stoles, Mexican Serape Stoles, Native American / Indigenous Stoles, Puente Stoles.

Candidates can also buy a standard Simmons stole through the Simmons Bookstore, which is white and displays “Simmons University” along with the university seal, available at the bookstore.

Please be aware that any attire featuring inflammatory, harmful, hostile messages, hate speech, or implied threats will not be permitted during the ceremony and must be removed.

Please note that university funds may not be used to purchase affinity cords or stoles.

V. Appendix

Office Responsible for this Policy:

Simmons University Office the Provost, Division of Student Engagement, Success, and Diversity

Related Policies:

1. Purchasing Policy
2. Business Expense Policy
3. Commencement Eligibility
4. Graduate Participation in Commencement Guidelines