



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 involved in the graduation ceremonies at the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses are required to wear academic regalia and this includes faculty, students, administration and visitors to the ceremonies. 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.

Information for Indigenous Students

(In this context Indigenous is defined as First Nations, Métis and Inuit, in Canada.)

- Indigenous student 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 just earned.
- 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.

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