Regalia Guidelines for Graduates

Commencement is both a celebration and an academic ceremony. As such, Towson University is guided by the Academic Costume Code as outlined by the American Council on Education (ACE). All commencement participants should strive to maintain a measure of decorum consonant with the occasion.

Approved Attire

Graduation candidates at commencement must wear regalia including: black caps with black tassels, black gowns and black hoods lined with gold to represent Towson University. The Office of the Provost has developed the following Regalia Guidelines to allow for graduate individuality without detracting from the overall dignity of the ceremony. All questions regarding regalia guidelines should be directed to the Office of the Provost via email at commencement@towson.edu or (410) 704-2125.

Caps
- Only the top of the cap can be decorated.
- Decorations must be two-dimensional only.
- Decorations cannot extend beyond parameters of the mortarboard.
- No offensive messages/designs are permitted.
- Only black tassels are permitted.
- Caps/décor that are deemed inappropriate, unsafe, offensive, or in violation of the guidelines will be exchanged for a plain black cap and returned after the ceremony.

Gowns
- Only honors cords that represent Towson University academic honors, honors societies (note: must be TU chapters of organizations recognized as active by the national organization) and ROTC may be worn.
- Graduates who have earned the designation of University Scholar may wear the medallions provided by the Honors College.
- Graduates may wear/drape a maximum of three stoles or cords representing Towson University academic honors or university-recognized student activities and organizations. For example, graduates may choose to wear one stole and two cords, two cords and one stole, or three of either item.
- Graduates who wear/drape stoles or cords that do not represent Towson University academic honors or university-recognized student activities and organizations and/or are deemed inappropriate or excessive, will be asked to remove them prior to the start of the ceremony.
- Graduates may choose to wear a small lapel pin (1 to 1.5 inch square) to represent membership in a Towson University affiliated academic or co-curricular organization. Graduates may wear a total of three lapel pins on a gown.
- Floral accents (corsages, boutonnieres, etc.) are not permitted to be worn during the ceremony. Floral accents may be worn after the commencement ceremony.