

Assumption University
Worcester, Massachusetts

Commencement Regalia and Accessories Policy

Purpose

Commencement is a formal academic ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of Assumption University graduates. Guidelines for commencement regalia and accessories have been established to preserve the dignity and significance of the occasion and to show respect for the University, its graduates, their families, and the academic community.

All graduates are required to wear official academic regalia consisting of the Assumption University–approved gown and mortarboard (cap).

Mortarboards (Caps) and Decorations

- Decorations must be tasteful, respectful, and appropriate for the dignity of the ceremony.
- Decorations may not include offensive, discriminatory, profane, or inappropriate language, imagery, or symbols.
- Decorations may not obstruct the graduate’s visibility or interfere with the ceremony.
- Any University staff or faculty member reserves the right to determine whether a decoration is inappropriate and request its removal prior to or during the ceremony.
- Graduates who are unsure whether their decoration is appropriate are encouraged to contact the Academic Events Coordinator at acad.events@assumption.edu in advance of the ceremony.

Stoles, Sashes, Cords, and Other Accessories

- Graduates may wear approved academic stoles, sashes, cords, medallions, pins, or other accessories provided by the University or recognized academic programs, honor societies, student organizations, or identity-based celebrations.
- Personal or purchased stoles, sashes, or other adornments are permitted provided they are respectful and appropriate for the formal nature of commencement.
- Accessories may not include offensive or inappropriate language, imagery, or symbols.
- Accessories may not interfere with or cover official academic regalia in a way that diminishes its academic significance.
- Any University staff or faculty member reserves the right to deem an accessory inappropriate and request its removal.
- Graduates with questions regarding permitted accessories should contact the Academic Events Coordinator at acad.events@assumption.edu prior to commencement.

Prohibited Items

- Accessories, decorations, or adornments containing offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate content
- Items that obstruct visibility, movement, or the orderly conduct of the ceremony
- Any item deemed inappropriate by University staff or faculty

Enforcement

University staff and faculty participating in commencement ceremonies are authorized to enforce this policy. Graduates may be asked to remove inappropriate items in order to participate in the ceremony.