

Academic Attire

In 1895, the Intercollegiate Commission, a group of leading American educators, introduced an academic costume code which by design of gowns and hoods would indicate the various degrees, and which by colors would identify the various faculties.

Three types of gowns are indicated by the code. Those worn by the bachelors have long, pointed sleeves. Those worn by masters have long, closed sleeves with the arc of a circle near the bottom. Doctoral gowns are faced with velvet. The sleeves are full, round, and open with three bars of velvet on each sleeve. The velvet facing of the bars on the sleeves may be black or the same color as the binding of the hood.

Hoods are made of material identical with the gown and are lined in the official academic color of the institution conferring the degree (e.g., green and white for MSU). If the institution has more than one color, the chevron is used to introduce the second color. Colored velvet or velveteen binds the hoods and indicates the department of faculty to which the degree pertains.

The color of the velvet of the hood is distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains. For example, the trimming for the degree of Master of Science in Agriculture should be maize, representing agriculture, rather than golden yellow, representing science. Generally, the code for the velvet of the hood is the same as listed for tassels.

At Michigan State University, it is customary to identify the candidates graduating from the different areas of study by tassels of the official color as established by the Intercollegiate Code. Candidates graduating from the Honors College wear a white stole with the initials "HC." Candidates graduating "With Honor" or "With High Honor" wear a gold braid.

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Forestry, Packaging	Maize Russet
Residential College in the Arts and Humanities	White
College of Arts and Letters Fine Arts Philosophy	White Brown Dark Blue
The Eli Broad College of Business	Drab
College of Communication Arts and Sciences Journalism Speech	Peacock Blue Crimson Silver Gray
College of Education	Light Blue
College of Engineering	Orange
College of Human Medicine Public Health	Green Salmon Pink
James Madison College	Citron
College of Law	Purple
Lyman Briggs College	Golden Yellow
College of Music	Pink
College of Natural Science	Golden Yellow
College of Nursing	Apricot
College of Osteopathic Medicine	Green
College of Social Science Economics	Citron Copper
College of Veterinary Medicine	Dark Gray