

Commencement Regalia Policy

Formal academic regalia consisting of black academic gowns and mortarboards is required for all degree candidates participating in the University of Arkansas at Monticello commencement ceremonies. It is the responsibility of the degree candidate to obtain academic regalia (gown, mortarboard, and tassel) provided by the university through the UAM Bookstore, prior to the ceremony and to bring it to the ceremony. Only adornment provided and/or approved by the university, such as cords and stoles, are allowed.

- Candidates for degrees must wear robes appropriate to their degree.
- Graduate candidates for master's degrees wear the appropriate hoods around their necks and down their backs. Hoods must be purchased by the candidate and are not provided by the University.
- Graduate candidates for graduate certificates wear an appropriate stole. Stoles must be purchased by the candidate and are not provided by the University.
- Cords or stoles representing honor graduates, University-recognized national honor societies, Recognized Student Organizations, students with an international or cultural heritage, members of University recognized social fraternities and sororities, active military and veteran students, and members of University athletic teams are allowed. Please refer to the Stoles and Cords Policy below.
- Undergraduate degree candidates place tassels on the right side of the mortarboard until their degrees are conferred at the commencement ceremonies. The tassels are switched to the left side as part of the ceremony and are worn on that side any time thereafter.
- No additional adornments may be worn outside of the gown.
- Graduates will be asked prior to entering the ceremony to remove any adornments that are offensive or that do not comply with this policy.

Commencement Stoles and Cords Policy

The University of Arkansas at Monticello recognizes the importance of accessories such as cords, medallions, and stoles in symbolizing academic achievement and the value of acknowledging achievement not only in honor societies but other recognized organizations and affiliations. The stoles and cords that may be worn at commencement ceremonies represent University-recognized national honor societies, Recognized Student Organizations, students with an international or cultural heritage, members of University recognized social fraternities and sororities, active military and veteran students, and members of University athletic teams.

Graduation with Honors: The University recognizes graduates of baccalaureate degree programs who have excelled in their studies. At the baccalaureate degree level, students must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50 to graduate cum laude. To graduate magna cum laude, students must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.70. The highest recognition is summa cum laude which requires a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.90. To graduate with honors, baccalaureate students must have at least 60 hours in residence at UAM. Only 1000-level courses and above are used to compute the hours in residence and the grade point average. The University will

provide a cord to students meeting these standards. Students must plan to participate in Commencement to receive a cord.

National Honor Societies: All members of national honor societies recognized by the University may wear the stoles and/or honor cords associated with their national organizations. Each student's membership in a National Honor Society will be noted in the commencement program.

Active and Veteran Students: Red, white, and blue cords are reserved for graduating students who serve or have served in US military and armed forces. No other group may use a red, white, and blue cord as their adornment of choice.

Social Fraternities and Sororities: Any member of a nationally recognized social fraternity or sorority may wear the stole and/or cord of the national association.

International & Cultural Heritage Stoles: Students may choose to wear a stole at commencement to celebrate their cultural heritage (e.g. African, Latinx, Native American, Asian) or a stole representing their international affiliation. The heritage stoles should not include words or numbers. The University does not provide heritage stoles.

Commencement Stole and Cord Guidelines:

- Students may only wear **one** approved stole of their choosing in addition to University approved cords during commencement ceremonies.
- Cords or stoles are designated for members of University-recognized national honor societies, Recognized Student Organizations, students with an international or cultural heritage, members of University recognized social fraternities and sororities, active military and veteran students, and members of University athletic teams.
- The cost of the stole, if not issued by the University, is the responsibility of the organization or the individual graduating student.
- Stoles may not be wider than 5 inches.
- Stoles imprinted with the organization's name, initials, and achievements may not display any derogatory or offensive language, nor should they draw undue attention to an individual person or group that would detract from the occasion.
- Approval for new cords or stoles must be obtained at least one semester in advance of the commencement ceremony desired.
- Organizations who fail to follow the established policy will jeopardize the organization's ability to be represented with cords or stoles in future commencement ceremonies.