

CAMERON UNIVERSITY

Regalia at Commencement and Graduate Hooding Policy

Policy Statement

Commencement and Graduate Hooding ceremonies are intended as a celebration of student accomplishments during their time at Cameron University and as recognition of faculty and guest accomplishments during their academic careers. Although primarily academic in nature, other student activities and achievements associated with Cameron University or other regionally or nationally accredited institutions of higher education may be recognized as part of the regalia worn during the ceremonies.

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Who Should Know This Policy

President	Faculty
Vice Presidents	Other Accounting/Finance Personnel
Deans	Students
Department Chairs	Other Groups
Directors	All Employees

Responsibilities

Responsible for Policy

University Officer Responsible

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Procedure

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: Academic ceremonies are important to the history and traditions of Cameron University. Commencement and Graduate Hooding ceremonies are intended as a celebration of student accomplishments during their time at Cameron University and as recognition of faculty and guest accomplishments during their academic careers. Although primarily academic in nature, other student activities and achievements associated with Cameron University or other regionally or nationally accredited institutions of higher education may be recognized as part of the regalia worn during the ceremonies.

1.0 Definitions

- 1.1 Regalia – Ceremonial clothing worn during academic ceremonies.
- 1.2 Cap – Headwear associated with regalia that is typically black and usually includes a tassel. Common caps are a mortarboard and four-, six-, or eight-sided tams.
- 1.3 Gown – Full length outer garment associated with regalia, typically black.
- 1.4 Hood – Modified versions of medieval headwear now worn about the shoulders. The colors of the hood denote the academic institution awarding the highest earned degree of the wearer. The length of the hood denotes the level of the degree earned.
- 1.5 Ornaments – Ornaments include cords, medallions, sashes, and stoles that are worn about the neck or shoulders and pins or patches affixed to the gown to recognize achievement, awards, or memberships.

2.0 General Guidelines

- 2.1 Faculty – Members of the Cameron University faculty may wear the regalia to which they are entitled based on individual academic accomplishments. Academic regalia typically includes a gown, mortarboard or tam, hood representing the institution of the highest earned degree, and ornaments associated with career academic accomplishments.
 - 2.1.1 Chair of the Faculty Senate – In addition to personal academic regalia, the chair of the Faculty Senate or designee carries the University Mace. The mace symbolizes the authority of the faculty on behalf of the president in academic matters and the practice of shared governance within the University. The mace was designed and created by emeritus faculty member Benson Warren in 1981.
- 2.2 Military Personnel – Cameron University military cadre wear the appropriate military dress uniform during academic ceremonies.
- 2.3 Platform Party – Members of the platform party may wear the regalia to which they are entitled based on individual academic accomplishments with the following exceptions:
 - 2.3.1 President – The president of an academic institution is entitled to wear a fourth velvet arm stripe regardless of the highest academic degree earned. The only ornament to be worn is the University Medallion.
 - 2.3.2 Regents – Governing board and coordinating board regents may wear the regalia of office regardless of academic degree earned.
 - 2.3.3 Speaker – The speaker may wear the regalia to which they are entitled, an undergraduate black gown, or appropriate military or business dress.
- 2.4 Students
 - 2.4.1 Associate's and Bachelor's Degree Candidates
 - 2.4.1.1 Candidates for undergraduate degrees wear the appropriate untrimmed black gown.

- 2.4.1.2 The approved cap for undergraduate degrees is a black mortarboard with tassel.
 - 2.4.1.2.1 The tassel is worn on the right side of the mortarboard. Following conferral of the degree, the tassel is placed on the left side of the mortarboard.
 - 2.4.1.2.2 The top surface of the mortarboard may be decorated to express the individuality of the degree recipient. The decorations may not hang from the side of the mortarboard nor may they exceed a height of one-half inch above the surface.
- 2.4.1.3 Undergraduate degree recipients may wear University-approved ornaments including cords, stoles, and medallions that represent the collegiate experience.
 - 2.4.1.3.1 Transfer students and students with previously earned postsecondary degrees may wear ornaments from other regionally or nationally accredited higher education institutions.
 - 2.4.1.3.2 Civic, corporate, governmental, religious, and pre-collegiate ornaments are prohibited.
 - 2.4.1.3.3 The official listing of University-approved ornaments is maintained and is available through the Office of Academic Affairs.
- 2.4.2 Master's Degree Candidates
 - 2.4.2.1 Candidates for graduate degrees wear the appropriate untrimmed black gown. At Cameron University, the same type and style gown is worn for undergraduate and graduate degree candidates.
 - 2.4.2.2 The approved cap for graduate degrees is a black mortarboard with tassel.
 - 2.4.2.2.1 The tassel is worn on the left side of the mortarboard to indicate that a prior college-level degree has already been earned.
 - 2.4.2.2.2 The top surface of the mortarboard may be decorated to express the individuality of the degree recipient. The decorations may not hang from the side of the mortarboard nor may they exceed a height of one-half inch above the surface.
 - 2.4.2.3 Graduate candidates carry the Cameron University hood on their left arm prior to the Graduate Hooding Ceremony. At the Graduate Hooding Ceremony, the appropriate academic official will place the hood on the candidate. Once the hood has been placed on the candidate, the candidate may wear the hood with the gown at future commencement or graduation exercises until such time as a higher level degree is earned.
 - 2.4.2.4 Graduate degree recipients may wear University-approved ornaments including cords, stoles, and medallions that represent the undergraduate or graduate collegiate experience.
 - 2.4.2.4.1 Transfer students and students with previously earned postsecondary degrees may wear ornaments earned at other regionally or nationally accredited higher education institutions.
 - 2.4.2.4.2 Civic, corporate, governmental, religious, and pre-collegiate ornaments are prohibited.
 - 2.4.2.4.3 The official listing of University-approved ornaments is maintained and is available through the Office of Academic Affairs.

- 2.5 Ceremony participants not in compliance with the requirements of this policy may be asked to remove or conceal any unapproved regalia ornaments.
- 2.6 In any event, regalia ornaments or decorations added to caps should not obstruct the view of others at the ceremony or interfere with another person's participation in the ceremony.

3.0 Procedures

- 3.1. Registered ornaments
 - 3.1.1 The official listing of University-approved ornaments is maintained and is available through the Office of Academic Affairs.
 - 3.1.2 The listing is intended to be a resource for identification and to avoid confusion among different student organizations.
- 3.2 Application and possible approval of new ornaments
 - 3.2.1 Members of active student organizations recognized by the Cameron University Office of Campus Life may submit proposed designs for regalia ornaments including cords, medallions, pendants, pins, sashes, and stoles.
 - 3.2.2 The staff members in the Office of Campus Life will review proposals for duplication of existing organization regalia ornaments, consistency with similar organizations, and potential for disruption to ceremonies. After review, a recommendation in support of or opposition to the proposal will be made to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
 - 3.2.3 The Vice President for Academic Affairs will render a final decision based on the application, communicate that decision to the members of the active student organization, and update the official listing of approved ornaments, if appropriate.

4.0 Policy Exceptions

- 4.1 Military graduates from the Cameron University ROTC program may wear the appropriate military uniform if they process with the Department of Military Science cadre and cadets and if they have been commissioned. Military uniform regulations should be followed.
- 4.2 Red, white, and blue cords may be worn by veterans of the United States military forces in addition to traditional regalia.

Contacts

Policy Questions: Office of Academic Affairs, (580) 581-2250

Forms

In support of this policy, the following forms are included:
None

Policy History

Policy

Issue Date: January 21, 2020
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