

Commencement Regalia Policy

Only official UNC Charlotte caps, gowns, and hoods (regalia), can be worn at the commencement ceremonies. All regalia must comply with the following policy.

While UNC Charlotte recognizes that the decoration or personalization of mortarboard caps and stoles for the commencement ceremony may be an important expressive activity for some students, those choosing to wear a decorated or personalized cap or stole during the ceremony must follow the policy below.

This policy will be enforced at the commencement ceremony, and the University reserves the right to require that graduates change inappropriate attire before they are allowed to participate in the ceremony. The University wants this experience for our graduates to be a positive and celebratory event of self-expression, yet respectful of all and without disruptive effect.

Regalia decorations that are motivated by animosity against a person or group because of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, national origin, or which otherwise infringe on the rights and freedoms of others are not permitted.

Regalia decorations may not include the following:

- **Profanity**
- **Symbols for or references to alcohol or controlled substances**
- **Political statements, slogans, symbols, or political party references**
- **Adornments that obstruct the view of other graduates, including large three-dimensional objects or distracting sounds or lights.**

In addition, any items not part of the regalia, such as banners, flags, and/or signs of any shape and size are not permitted to be carried at commencement ceremonies.

Sashes/stoles worn by graduating students may not be wider than 6 inches.

NOTE: *The list above is not exhaustive, and any adornment or message deemed disruptive, harassing, or determined to pose a safety risk or distraction will not be permitted. If this policy is not followed, the graduate will be asked to remove their cap or stole and wear a new, undecorated regalia, or they will not be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony. For questions concerning this policy, please contact commencement@charlotte.edu.*