

SECTION: 5.0 STUDENTS

SUBJECT: GRADUATION REGALIA

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**Title:** Approved Honor Cords / Graduation Regalia

**Background:** The purpose of this policy is to clarify regalia and honors cords approved for use by students during commencement activities at Lewis-Clark State College (LC State).

**Point of Contact:** Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Other LC State offices directly involved with implementation of this policy, or significantly affected by the policy:** Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, Registrar

**Date of approval by LC State authority:** January 2018

**Date of State Board Approval:** N/A

**Date of Most Recent Review:** March 2025

**Summary of Major Changes incorporated in this revision to the policy:** Added military dress uniform as acceptable for commencement ceremony. Updated to comply with LC State's Writing Style Guidelines.

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## 1. Purpose

LC State recognizes that commencement activities are a formal academic event. This policy outlines the proper attire and approved academic regalia for graduates of LC State in order to participate in commencement activities.

## 2. Academic Regalia

- A. Commonly called cap and gown, academic regalia includes a mortarboard (cap), black gown, and tassel. The stole is included for baccalaureate and graduate certificate candidates, and a hood for master's degree candidates.
  - i. Associate degree or certificate candidates wear a solid black robe, black mortarboard (cap), and tassel.
  - ii. Bachelor's degree candidates wear a solid black robe with a Warrior Blue institutional stole, black mortarboard (cap), and tassel.
  - iii. Graduate certificate candidates wear a solid black robe with a white institutional stole, black mortarboard (cap), and tassel.
  - iv. Graduate degree candidates wear a solid black master's robe with master's hood. The hood has a black shell, the velvet is colored for the degree and discipline, the hood lining includes Warrior Blue with a white chevron, and a black mortarboard (cap), and tassel.
- B. Proper Placement of Tassel and Honor Cords
  - i. The tassel is worn on the right side of the mortarboard prior to the degree being conferred.
  - ii. Honor cords are worn around the neck and hanging down the front of the gown to identify students who are graduating with honors.
  - iii. The cords are provided by LC State and are worn on this one occasion only. Only the cords and stoles listed below are appropriate for commencement at LC State.

Approved Honors Cords/Stoles/Tassels:

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- a) President's honors (blue/white; Professional-Technical honors, 3.75 GPA)
- b) Cum Laude (silver; with distinction, 3.70 GPA)
- c) Magna Cum Laude (gold; with great distinction, 3.8 GPA)
- d) Summa Cum Laude (silver & gold; with highest distinction, 3.9 GPA)

**3. College-sanctioned Honor Societies and Organizations**

- A. Ambassador Honor Society: recognizes the academic achievements of members with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and their service contributions (gold tassel).
- B. Business: Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society recognizes students who rank in the top 20% of their class following completion of at least one half of the business program in which they are enrolled. Transfer students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits in their business program at LC State and meet all other standard eligibility requirements (gold medallion).
- C. History: Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society recognizes students who have completed 12 credit hours or more of history with a minimum 3.1 GPA in history and minimum 3.0 GPA overall (red and light blue cords).
- D. Psychology: Psi Chi Honor Society recognizes declared psychology majors who have earned a GPA that is in the top 35% of their class or a 3.3 GPA, with an average 3.0 GPA for psychology courses (silver medallion).
- E. Social Work: Phi Alpha Honor Society recognizes pledged members with a grade point average of 3.25 or higher (silver medallion).
- F. Teacher Education: Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society recognizes teacher candidates who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, demonstrated high academic ideals, and have made significant contributions to the education profession (green and purple cords).

**4. Military and Veteran Regalia**

LC State honors those who serve or have honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

- A. Military and veteran graduates wear red, white, and blue honor cords.
- B. Military men and women who are currently serving may wear a military service dress uniform.

**5. Allowable Additions to Approved Academic Regalia**

- A. Cords, stoles, hoods, or medallions beyond those listed in this policy are not to be worn by LC State graduates during commencement exercises.
- B. Small pins which demonstrate affiliation with other instructional programs or campus groups and organizations may be worn on the stole or the gown.