

## Graduation Adornments Policy

### Introduction

In keeping with the solemnity of the ceremonies, special regalia is worn to symbolize reaching a significant milestone in your educational journey – earning your law degree. This year, in an effort to further highlight your accomplishments at the law school and to respect our students' involvement in school activities and our commitment to diversity and individuality, we are broadening our policy for adornments to include law school organization and academic center adornments.

This policy outlines guidelines for the use of cords, medals, stoles, and pins during the law school hooding ceremony, drawing inspiration from practices observed at other law schools.

### Approved Adornments

1. **Academic Regalia:** All graduates must wear the designated academic regalia, which includes the doctoral tam, the gown, and the hood, trimmed in purple to signify law. Personal decorations to the academic regalia are not allowed as they may detract from the spirit and dignity of the occasion or alter or obscure recognition of the degree that the designated regalia represents.
2. **Approved Adornments:** The following adornments are approved:
  1. **Gold Latin Honors Cords:** The law school will distribute gold cords to students with Latin honors (*e.g.*, *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, *summa cum laude*).
  2. **Veterans of the United States' Armed Services:** Law students who are veterans may wear a red, white, and blue cord, which will be distributed by the law school.
  3. **The Order of Barristers:** Students who have earned The Order of Barristers award in connection with Board of Advocates may wear the medal they receive.
  4. **Barristers Pin:** Members of the Barristers may wear the Barrister's pin.
  5. **Silver Cords:** The silver cord will be awarded to students who have completed 200 or more hours of public service. These students will also be listed on the Pro Bono Honor Roll.
3. **Requests for Other Adornments:** SMU Dedman Law-sponsored or recognized law student organizations may apply to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs for permission to wear other adornments such as pins, cords, or stoles at the hooding ceremony. Adornments may not contain words or phrases, unless they are the name of the organization or the year of graduation (*e.g.*, Class of 2024). Letters are permitted only if they are representing the name/acronym of social or academic organization. Images (coat of arms, photos, organization logos, etc.) are not permitted. Adornments should be appropriate decorum for a law school and many not be adornments from your undergraduate studies (*i.e.*, they must be law school affiliated organizations).

1. Petitions for approval should be directed to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs prior to 5:00 pm on Friday, April 12, 2024 through this **Adornment Request Form**.
2. Student organizations are responsible for ordering and purchasing any approved adornments for their members.
3. Adornments are not typically approved for exclusive use by any organization. Overlapping aesthetic features may be acceptable.