

THE MEANING OF ACADEMIC DRESS

The wearing of academic gowns, mortarboards, tassels, and hoods has been an integral feature of American commencement pageantry since the end of the nineteenth century. In Europe, these traditions originated during the Middle Ages. The early commencement ceremonies in our country were known for debates and orations given by the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge. California State University, Chico maintains much of the tradition and pageantry of the early times in its commencement exercises. The Academic Procession is a colorful parade with faculty in distinctive caps and gowns from universities around the world. The hoods that are worn are fashioned of velvet and silk, their rainbow colors denoting the wearers' institutions and fields of study.

Our master's candidates carry, and later wear, hoods lined in silk with University colors, red and white, to indicate the field of study in which the candidates have taken their degrees. The colors listed below are those used on the velvet facing of the master's hood.

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| Anthropology | Citron |
| Art | Brown |
| Biological Sciences | Gold |
| Botany | Gold |
| Business Administration | Yale Blue |
| Communication Sciences and Disorders | Silver Grey |
| Communication Studies | Crimson |
| Computer Science | Gold |
| Education | Light Blue |
| Electrical and Computer Engineering | Orange |
| English | White |
| Environmental Science | Gold |
| Geography | Citron |
| Geosciences | Gold |
| History | White |
| Instructional Design and Technology | Crimson |
| Interdisciplinary Studies | Multi-Color (Gold, Red, White) |
| Kinesiology | Sage Green |
| Mathematics Education | Gold |
| Music | Pink |
| Nursing | Apricot |
| Nutritional Science | Maroon |
| Political Science | Yale Blue |
| Psychology | Gold |
| Public Administration | Peacock Blue |
| Recreation Administration | Sage Green |
| Social Science | Citron |
| Social Work | Citron |
| Teaching International Languages | Light Blue |