



Policy Statement - Commencement Adornment

Adopted in 2022

Revised for the 2024 Commencement

Cords, Medallions, Pins and Sashes

Guidelines for appropriate attire at commencement have been established in order to preserve the dignity and importance of the occasion and to show respect for the college, its graduates, and their families. Formal academic regalia consisting of black academic gowns and mortarboards (caps) are the dress of the day. With the exception of decorated caps (which are permitted), nonpermitted accessories that draw attention to an individual and detract from the occasion are not acceptable. The following outlines the attire that is acceptable to be worn as part of the academic regalia at commencement.

- 1) No group may give medallions to students as part of their recognition. The Presidential Scholars Medallion is the only one approved by the college.
- 2) Currently, the only approved sashes are those worn by EOPS participants, Associated Student Government (ASG) members, students who participate in the Black Grad celebration, Compton College student-athletes, MESA students, and Early College students.
 - a) Sashes provided to graduates who attend the Compton College affinity group celebrations are also approved.
 - b) No group may provide graduation sashes to their students as part of the commencement ceremony without prior approval.
- 3) No group may provide graduation cords to their students as part of the commencement ceremony without prior approval. Currently, the only approved cords are the gold cords for honor students (GPA of 3.5 or higher), and the maroon/white "braided" cords worn with a stethoscope by nursing program graduates who participate in the IKX volunteer/service program.
 - a) Red, white and blue cords are reserved for graduates who serve or have served in the U.S. armed forces. No other group may use a red, white and blue cord as an adornment.
- 4) Students in the nursing program are provided with a pin at the biannual pinning ceremonies that may be worn during commencement.
- 5) No one may issue or distribute colored tassels other than the approved maroon Compton College tassels. Only tassels included in the cap & gown packages sold at the Bookstore are permitted.
- 6) Departments, programs and College-sanctioned groups may submit new commencement adornment requests to the chairs of the Commencement Planning Committee. Requests must be emailed to the dean of Athletics and Student Support Services and the director of Community Relations by November 20 for adornments to be used at commencement the following spring. Requests will be reviewed by the committee and a recommendation will be made in accordance with the Collaborative Governance process.