

*Note from Faculty Senate President: It is my understanding from Provost Allen that the Commencement Committee is responsible for setting the commencement policy. The new language below are actionable suggestions from Kim Meyer in the Provost's Office, who works most closely with the committee.*

### **Salisbury University Commencement Policies**

Commencement is a formal academic occasion and should be viewed as such in dress and demeanor. The following guidelines are provided to help you prepare for your Commencement ceremony. *Graduates choosing not to abide by these guidelines will not be allowed in the Civic Center and may be escorted from the ceremony.*

### **Dress Code**

The academic robe is black with a V neckline and will show part of your clothing underneath. The recommended dress is similar to what you would wear to a formal interview. *Graduates who are not dressed appropriately will be asked to leave the assembly area and will not be allowed to participate in the Commencement ceremony.* Please review the following guidelines:

1. Shorts are not permitted.
2. Dress shoes are suggested.
3. The gown should be mid-calf.
4. No jewelry on or over the gown.
5. No flowers on the academic robe. Flowers may not be carried.
6. The mortarboard (academic hat) should be worn with the front point over the forehead below the front hairline, so the flat board is parallel to the floor. (Not worn on the back of the head with the board pointing upward.) **NO DECORATION OF ANY KIND IS PERMITTED ON THE MORTARBOARD.**
7. Undergraduate honors students wear a gold and white stole; stoles are distributed to honors students with the cap and gown. The stole is worn with the gold side out and the white inner lining turned out at the top, over the gold (like a collar). Cords are worn under the honors stole.

*All honor cords and stoles must be ordered only through the Salisbury University Bookstore and receive prior approval from The Office of the Provost for permitted categories, including:*

- a) Honors: Academic honors earned through SU grade point average, completion of the Bellevance Honors Programs, or induction into college-recognized honors societies*
- b) Military Service*
- c) Recognized Professional Organizations*
- d) International Affiliation or Study*
- e) Registered Student Organizations with prior approval from the Office of the Provost*

*Students are limited to no more than 4 adornments (stoles and cords). Any adornments must not obstruct or interfere with another's participation or detract from the academic spirit of the ceremony.*

8. Candidates for the bachelor's degree enter the auditorium with the tassel on the right, hanging near the right eye. After the degrees are conferred, the tassel is shifted to the left side.
9. Candidates for the master's degree wear the academic robe, hood and mortarboard with the tassel on the left, hanging near the left eye.

## **GRADUATION DECORUM**

Graduation ceremonies are, by their very nature, festive occasions. The festivity manifests itself in many ways including the dress of the students and faculty adorned in academic regalia and the warmth, joy and satisfaction of accomplishment. The ceremonies are also a solemn occasion; the actual conferring of degrees signifies long, hard work on the part of everyone involved: students, faculty, administrators, parents and spouses. As a consequence of the serious nature of the ceremony, students are expected to maintain a measure of decorum consonant with the occasion. Applause and other recognition of the conferring of degrees should be limited to a joint effort at the conclusion of each graduation group. Graduates are expected to return to their seats after receiving their diploma, and to remain seated for the rest of the ceremony. Family and guests are asked to remain seated for the entire ceremony, refraining from leaving their seats in order to take pictures or to talk to graduates.

Please note these additional rules:

- No alcohol or illegal drugs will be permitted in or around the Civic Center. Graduates who appear to be under the influence of either will be removed from the lineup and will not participate in the ceremony.
- Candidates should not chew gum or tobacco.
- Air horns or other noisemaking devices are not permitted by graduates or guests and will be confiscated. Balloons and banners are not permitted inside the Civic Center during commencement.
- Candidates should NOT have personal belongings in their possession during the commencement ceremony. If necessary, personal items can be left in Flanders Room #1 during the graduation ceremony, when the room will be locked. It will be unlocked when the ceremony is over and students may pick up their possessions at that time. SU will not be responsible for these items; students are therefore encouraged to leave valuables with family or friends.