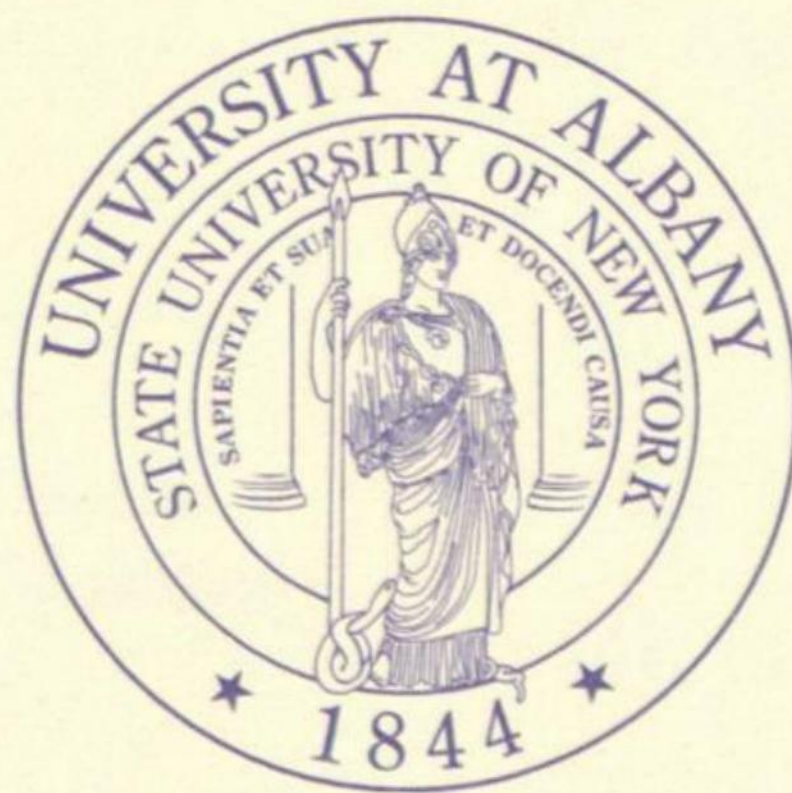


152nd
COMMENCEMENT

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UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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ACADEMIC HERALDRY

The caps, gowns, and hoods worn at college and university functions date back to the Middle Ages. Monks and students of those days wore them to keep warm in the damp and drafty 12th-century castles and halls of learning. The gowns for the bachelor's degree, earned after undergraduate study, have long, pointed sleeves and are designed to be worn closed.

The holder of the master's degree wears a gown with an oblong sleeve open at the wrist. The sleeve base hangs down, and rear part of its oblong shape is worn square cut. The gown may be worn open or closed. An alternate and older master's gown is also permissible. The gown is always worn open, has a long sleeve, which is square and closed at the end, and has a slit near forearm.

Gowns for the doctoral degree may also be worn open or closed, but they carry broad velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on the full, round, open sleeves. The velvet trimming may be either in black or the color distinctive to the field of learning to which the degree pertains.

Academic gowns for each level are black, although a few institutions permit doctoral recipients to wear gowns of the characteristic institutional color.

Academic protocol allows trustees, presidents, and marshals of higher education institutions to wear gowns which are especially designed and

colored. The President of the University at Albany wears a royal purple gown bearing four gold velvet chevrons on the sleeves. The marshals' gowns at Albany are royal purple and gold.

Caps may be of serge, broadcloth, or, for the doctoral outfit only, of velvet. The tassel is black or the color appropriate to subject, except the doctoral cap may have a tassel of gold or bullion.

It is the hood that gives color and real meaning to the academic costume. The bachelor's hood is sometimes worn upon completion of the course, even though the degree has not yet been actually conferred. A black shell of varying size for the three degrees, and of material to match the gowns, is silk-lined with the colors of the institution conferring the degree. Albany's institutional colors are royal purple and gold.

The hoods of the master's degree recipients are a black shell made of material to match the gown and use the institutional colors. The doctoral hood, which uses the same institutional colors, is larger and of a different style, having a flat panel at the back. The hood is bordered with velvet of the proper width to indicate the degree and of the color signifying the field of learning to which the degree pertains.

It is important to note that the color of the velvet trimming on the hood indicates the subject to which

the degree pertains. The "Bachelor of Science in engineering" degree should have the orange trimming of engineering, rather than the golden yellow of science. The Doctor of Philosophy degree requires dark blue because the degree designation does not necessarily identify the major field of study. If more than one degree is held, the gown and hood of the highest degree are worn. Holders of several doctoral degrees may make a choice of hood for any particular occasion. The colors indicative of the various fields of learning are as follows:

Arts, Letters, Humanities: *white*
Accountancy, Business, Commerce: *drab*

Economics: *copper*

Education: *light blue*

Fine Arts, including Architecture: *brown*

Journalism: *crimson*

Library Science: *lemon yellow*

Music: *pink*

Oratory (Speech): *sliver gray*

Philosophy: *dark blue*

Physical Education: *sage green*

Public Administration, including

Foreign Service: *peacock blue*

Science: *golden yellow*

Social Science: *cream*

Social Work: *citron*

Graduating students at Albany wear tassels on their caps in a color representing their academic major. Honors graduates of the baccalaureate program also wear honor medallions.

Degrees being awarded today are followed by degrees awarded in December and August of 1995 in each category. Candidates for degrees are listed as of April 25, 1996. No changes in status could be made after that date. Honors for May degree candidates were computed using the cumulative grade point average as of December 24, 1995, and projected A-E credits at Albany of 56 or more. Official honor status will be recalculated when Spring 1996 grades are recorded and will appear on the diploma.

*** Summa Cum Laude – signifies a cumulative grade-point average of 3.75 or above

** Magna Cum Laude – signifies a cumulative grade-point average of 3.50-3.74

* Cum Laude – signifies a cumulative grade-point average of 3.25-3.49