

# Graduation Gown Care and Etiquette

## Texas Tech University Graduate Student Advisory Council

The fact that you are graduating with your Masters or Doctoral degree is a big deal and means that you have done things right! Now we are here to help you survive the graduation ceremony... mostly by helping you wear your gown, mortar, tassel, and the hood the right way!

In this brief guide we will tell you about caring for your graduation gown, about the graduation etiquette, and a little bit about our gown donation program. If at the end of the graduating ceremony you see us holding "Gown Donations" sign please consider donating any regalia that you no longer need. Those gowns will help future generation of Grad Red Raiders.

### Caring For Your Gown

#### The "natural way"

Remove the gown and place on a hanger to allow the folds to fall out, and hang your gown in a high humidity area. A bathroom after a hot shower may be good location.

#### The "steamy way"

Consider steaming your gown to remove any wrinkles and freshen it up. Please note that all gowns that the Graduate Student Advisory Council rents out have been previously steam-cleaned.

#### The "not recommended way"

If you wish to press your gown, turn it inside out and press with a warm, but not hot iron. Always iron exclusive of any decoration a gown may have.

#### The "I am really busy way #1"

Your friendly neighborhood dry cleaner can steam the gown for you. Please note that it may be expensive, we would say about \$10.

#### The "I am really busy way #2"

If you are considering dry cleaning your gown you may want to ask your dry-cleaner to use "green" cleaning agents. Some of the traditional dry-cleaning chemicals have been linked to cancer. Odds are that smaller neighborhood dry cleaners may not be using eco-friendly cleaners unless specifically requested.

gsac@ttu.edu

www.gsac.ttu.edu



1: Hand wash or  
machine wash normal cycle  
105 °F (40 °C)



2: Hand wash or  
machine wash normal cycle  
105 °F (40 °C)



3: Do not bleach

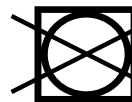


4: Low heat iron inside out

Please note that many doctoral gowns should not be ironed. They can only be dry cleaned or steamed. Always follow cleaning instructions provided with your gown.



5: Dry clean if desired



6: Do not tumble dry

## *Wearing Your Regalia*

### *Gown*

In order to look sharp for those pictures that will haunt you for years to come make sure to prepare your gown the day before. We recommend steaming it or dry-cleaning it to remove any wrinkles. A well-fit gown will end midway between the knee and ankle.



7: Graduation gown

### *Hood*

The hood should be worn draped around your neck with the largest portion of the hood hanging down your back. The velvet border, which indicates your specific field of study, should be showing on the outside. The velvet should fold under on the lower back to allow the colors of your College or University to show. To keep your hood from being too tight against your neck, there is a cord on the front to help secure it to a shirt button, or pin to a blouse or dress. Many hoods also have a cord and button in the back to prevent your hood from slipping off of your shoulders.



8: Putting a hood can be tricky but don't worry, we will have someone on the floor of the practice court who will help you make it right!

### *Mortarboard (fancy way of saying a graduation cap!)*

Contrary to common belief your graduation cap should be worn flat on your head and not tilted on the back of your head. The front of the cap should be marked on the inside of your cap. While men are expected to remove their caps during the school song and the National Anthem, women can keep their caps on.



9: Wear your graduation cap flat on your head.

### *Tassel*

Tassels are usually worn on the right side and shifted to the left at the end of the graduation ceremony when your degree is officially conferred. Graduation speaker will generally tell you when it is okay to shift your tassel from right to left.



10: Tassel worn to the right before your degree is conferred

### *Dress Code*

In dressing for the graduation it is important to balance dress requirements and comfort. We recommend at least a business casual dress but also ask that you dress to minimize discomfort. Remember you will not only sit, stand, and walk during the graduation ceremony itself, but also for about two hours during the practice phase.



11: Tassel worn to the left after your degree is conferred

### *Women Dress Code*

We recommend wearing dark bottoms: slacks, dress, or skirt, and a light-colored top: dress blouse or dress shirt. We recommend wearing dark shoes: flats or pumps. High heels are not recommended out of concern for your safety and comfort. Sandals and tennis shoes should be avoided. Please make sure not to bring anything with you that will not fit in your pockets. Purses will not be allowed in the graduation court.



12: No purses, bags, or backpacks are allowed in the graduation court.

### *Men Dress Code*

We recommend wearing dark bottoms: trousers or khakis and ironed or pressed light-colored dress shirt with a dark tie. We recommend wearing dark dress shoes and dark socks. Jeans, shorts, sandals and tennis shoes should be avoided.



13: No backpacks are allowed in the graduation court.

### *Returning or Donating Your Regalia*

We will be present after at the graduation arena and you will be able to return or donate your regalia to us as you are walking out and for another hour. Alternatively, you can return or donate your gown the following week by dropping it off by the Graduate School in the Administration Building room 328. It is the third floor of the east wing of the administration building.

The free graduation gown rental program is only possible due to generous donations from graduate students like you!!! We make donating gowns as easy and as painless as possible and offer several flexible donation options:

*On-site* We will be present at the graduation. You can leave your gown with us after the ceremony!

*Pick-up* If you send us an email to [gsac@ttu.edu](mailto:gsac@ttu.edu) we will be glad to pick up the gown from any Lubbock location!

*Drop-off* Regalia can be donated at the front desk in the Graduate School, Administration Building, room 328.

*Mail-in* If you are based outside of Lubbock please feel free to mail your gown to us. If you would like to we can email you a prepaid shipping label. Simply send us an email to [gsac@ttu.edu](mailto:gsac@ttu.edu).

#### **Drop-off Address:**

Texas Tech University  
Graduate School  
Administration Building, Room 328  
(3rd Floor, East Wing)  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1030

#### **Postal address:**

Graduate Student Advisory Council  
Texas Tech University  
Mail Stop 1030  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1030

#### **Courier delivery (FedEx, UPS):**

Texas Tech GSAC  
Boston Ave. at Akron Ave.  
Administration Bldg. Room 328  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1030

## *Congratulations and Thank You!!!*

Agriculture	Maize
Arts and Humanities	White
Business	Drab
Economics	Copper
Education	Light Blue
Engineering	Orange
Fine Arts	Brown
Architecture	Brown
Journalism	Crimson
Music	Pink
Philosophy	Dark Blue
Physical Education	Sage Green
Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Science	Golden Yellow
Social Work	Citron