

Graduation Cap Decoration Guidelines for Participants in McNichols Campus Commencements

Decorations on graduation caps (mortar boards) are a symbol of pride and accomplishment. The decorations represent personalized statements about accomplishments that can be presented in the form of a quote, an image, a symbol, a flag or other things.

To ensure that commencement exercises remain dignified celebrations of achievement of all students, the following rules must be followed when decorating caps for commencement:

- Decorations should not interfere with attaching the tassel to the cap.
- Only the flat top of the black cap may be decorated.
- Decorations must remain flat; the entire decoration must remain less than half an inch off of the top of the cap. They are not permitted to be 3-D or hang off the sides of the cap.
- Caps must not have any advertisements, symbols, words, or slogans conveying messages inappropriate at a dignified ceremony.
- Caps must not threaten the safety of others or use any hate speech of any kind.
- Caps must be consistent with the code of conduct for Detroit Mercy.
- Obscene, profane, or vulgar language is prohibited.
- Words or items diminishing or slandering toward any individual or institution, the University, any faculty or staff member, and/or any student are prohibited.
- Decorations are prohibited on the academic gown and hood.

Not sure if your decorations meet the guidelines?

Email Stephanie Wheeler, Director of Student Life: wheelesm@udmercy.edu

Failure to follow these rules for graduation cap decoration and/or instructions from commencement officials will result in the decorated cap being replaced with a plain black cap to be used in the ceremony.