

The *craft*, **color**, **co\$t** and custom of graduation at Elon

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Craft:

The Gown: For the bachelor's degree gown the sleeves must be pointed, while the gown for the master's degree has oblong shaped sleeves meant to be worn open. The gown for the doctorate degree has bell-shaped sleeves.

The bachelor and master's degree gowns are untrimmed. The doctorate's degree gown has three velvet bars across the front in the color representative of the graduate's field of study.



The Hood: Black and made of the same material as the gown. The length of the hood shows the degree obtained by the graduate: three feet long for bachelor's degree, 3 and 1/2 feet long for a master's degree and 4 feet for a doctorate's degree. The hood is lined with velvet in the university colors, while the edges are the color of the respective major.

The hood is trimmed in velvet, 2 inches, 3 inches and 5 inches wide for the bachelor's, master's and doctorate's degrees respectively. If a person holds more than one degree they should only wear one hood.

The Cap: Made of cotton poplin, rayon or silk. But the caps for doctorate's degrees are made of velvet. The tassel is usually black or the color of the respective field of study. An exception is the doctorate's cap, which may be gold.

There are a few exceptions to the rules. The chief marshal may wear a specially designed gown approved by the institution. Any person who graduated from a foreign university may wear its respective gown. Any religious or military figure may also wear their respected uniforms instead of their academic gown.



Color:

Agriculture - Maize
Arts, Letters, Humanities - White
Commerce, Accountancy, Business - Drab
Dentistry - Lilac
Economics - Copper
Engineering - Orange
Fine Arts, Architecture - Brown
Forestry - Russet
Journalism - Crimson
Law - Purple
Library Science - Lemon
Medicine - Green
Music - Pink
Nursing - Apricot
Oratory - Silver Gray
Pharmacy - Olive Green
Philosophy - Dark Blue
Physical Education - Dark Blue
Public Administration, including Foreign Service - Peacock Blue
Public Health - Salmon Pink
Science - Golden Yellow
Social Work - Citron
Theology - Scarlet
Veterinary Science - Gray

Select color history:

Green was chosen for medicine because of healing herbs and the close color association made olive green an evident choice for pharmacy. Red was a traditional color for the church thus red was assigned to theology. And golden yellow represented the wealth science has brought and was therefore assigned to the sciences.

Cost:

Seniors' Graduation Fee (includes cost of diploma and cap and gown) : \$75

School's cost of cap and gown for bachelor's degree: \$50

School's cost of diploma for bachelor's degree: \$70

Cost of diploma for master's degree: \$110

Cost of diploma frame: \$150

Cost per chord: \$14

Custom:

The first academic gowns can be traced to the 12th and 13th centuries. The typical dress of a scholar was similar to the religious figures of the day and many gowns and hoods were long to keep professors warm in the unheated universities. The first universities to designate dress codes were Oxford and Cambridge but standardization in America would not come until much later.

In 1887, Gardner Cotrell Leonard designed gowns for Williams College and became fixated on the subject of academic dress code. He was asked to lead a commission to determine a set system of academic dress. The system determined the cut, color and material of the gowns.

A formalized committee authorized by the American Council on Education was issued in 1932 and redrafted in 1959 when several changes were made to the gowns. The last change was in 1986 when the committee clarified the use of dark blue for the Doctorate of Philosophy degree.

Elon University has two special academic dress customs. One is the Elon Medallion worn by President Leo Lambert. The medallion was a present, given in 1969. The 1969 senior class raised \$700 to buy the medallion that is made of gold and surrounded by rubies. The medallion's chain is a sequence of maroon and gold squares with the letters "E" and "C" inscribed on each square. The "E" and "C" stands for Elon College.

The other Elon tradition is the Mace. E.M. Martin gave the Mace as a gift in 1989. The seal is perched atop a silver replica of the brick colonnades located outside of Alamance. The seal has Elon's motto "Numen Lumen" written across it. The mace is carried by a different senior staff member chosen based on years of service at the university and is usually carried three times a year.