Decoding the colors of commencement

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The practice of wearing caps and gowns to signify a graduate’s educational passage from one level to the next extends back to medieval universities. Since then, generations of students have continued the tradition and in modern times found ways of adding unique touches to the tradition. Use this guide, designed by Tulane University graphic designer Kim Rainey, to help identify the regalia you’ll see graduates don in Yulman Stadium during the 2023 Unified Commencement Ceremony.
The Tassel

The tassel is one of the most recognizable symbols of academic achievement. Tulane University's tassel is green and hangs from the mortarboard and gown. It is a symbol of the university's long-standing commitment to excellence in education and a mark of distinction for its graduates.

The Gown

The gown is the traditional academic robe worn by those who have earned a degree. Tulane University's gown is green and black, with gold and white accents. It is worn with a green and gold academic hood, representing the student's field of study.

The Academic Mace

The academic mace is a ceremonial staff used in academic processions and ceremonies. Tulane University's mace is green and gold, with a distinctive design featuring the university's logo. It is carried by the university's chancellor and used to symbolize the institution's authority.

The Mortarboard

The mortarboard is a cap worn by students at graduation ceremonies. Tulane University's mortarboard is green and gold, with the university's logo and name embroidered on it. It is worn by the graduates to signify their academic achievement.

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