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.
Decoding Commencement

The Tassel

The tassel on top of a graduation cap signifies the level of the degree earned by the graduate. Tulane University is proud to offer a variety of tassels for its graduates. The tassel is a symbol of academic achievement and is worn on the graduation cap as a ceremonial decoration.

The Gown

The gown is a symbol of academic achievement and is worn by all graduates at Tulane University. It is made of high-quality fabric and is designed to be worn with the academic cap. Tulane University offers a variety of gowns for its graduates, including options for both men and women.

The Academic Mace

The mace is a ceremonial baton used by university officials to symbolize the authority of the university. Tulane University’s academic mace is a symbol of the university’s commitment to academic excellence and is used during commencement ceremonies.

The Mortarboard

The mortarboard is a traditional academic headdress worn by graduates. It is made of high-quality fabric and is designed to be worn during commencement ceremonies. Tulane University offers a variety of mortarboards for its graduates, including options for both men and women.