

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 the Caesars Superdome during the 2025 Unified Commencement Ceremony.

Decoding Commencement



The Tassel

The color system used to signify different academic disciplines became standardized in the United States in the late 19th century. However, the color assignments were inspired by ancient European traditions. For example, a

