

Historical Overview of the Academic Costume Code¹

The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries when universities were taking form. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric. Long gowns were worn and may have been necessary for warmth in unheated buildings. Hoods seem to have served to cover the head until superseded for that purpose by the skull cap.

The assignment of colors to signify certain faculties developed much later and only was standardized in the United States in the late 19th century. In 1986, the committee updated the code and added a sentence clarifying the use of the color dark blue for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

Trim Colors

The OSU-approved colors to signify academic disciplines are as follows:


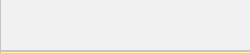
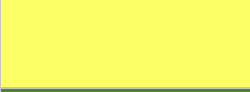










Doctoral Degrees










PhD (all disciplines)*	Royal Blue	
DBA (Business Administration – future)	Drab/Tan	

¹ Information from the American Council on Education and adapted by Eugene Sullivan, (<https://www.acenet.edu/Programs-Services/Pages/Academic-Regalia.aspx>, October 28, 2022).

DFS (Forensic Science)	Golden Yellow	
DHCA (Health Care Administration)	Sage Green	
Edd (Education)	Light Blue	

Specialist and Master's Degrees

EdS (Education)*	Light Blue	
		
Agriculture	Maize/Light Yellow	
Athletic Training	Sage Green	
Arts, Humanities, Sociology	White	
Business (except Economics)	Drab/Tan	
Communication Sciences	Silver	
Economics	Copper	
Education	Light Blue	
Engineering	Orange	
Fine Arts	Brown	
Global Studies	Peacock Blue	
Health Care/Human Performance	Sage Green	

Human Sciences/Design, Housing, Merchandising	Maroon	
Interdisciplinary Studies	Color associated with disciplinary degree coursework	
Music	Pink	
Philosophy/Political Science	Deep Blue	
Physician Assistant	Kelly Green	
Public Health	Salmon Pink	
Science, Mathematics, Statistics	Golden Yellow	
Social Science	Citron	
Strategic Communication	Crimson	
Veterinary/Comparative Biomedical Sciences	Gray	

*Royal blue represents all PhD degrees irrespective of discipline and does not indicate the disciplinary field. *EdS degree hoods are available for purchase. EdS candidates renting their regalia will wear doctoral gowns with master's hood.