

Commencement Committee Meeting

Date: September 11, 2025

I. Updates Since COVID

- Returned from taped to live music performances.
 - Incorporated music majors for vocal performances.
 - Added video speeches.
 - Faculty seating arrangements have improved.
 - Students are not part of the processional.
 - Students now choose their own seating.
 - Reflective tape installed on steps for safety.
 - Programs provided online.
 - New sound system scheduled for completion by spring.
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II. Committee Wish List

- Address sleeve-catching hazard on stage railing.
 - Relocate or adjust problematic speakers near the stage.
 - Improve student-facing screen visibility.
 - Remove or cover basketball goals (currently an eyesore).
 - Update gonfalons to reflect college name changes.
 - Provide live ASL interpreter for ceremonies.
 - Noted: 117 students enrolled in ASL this semester.
 - Add fun to the ceremony by adding the drum line to the front of the processional, add shakers in seats, use cheerleaders in stands, and swaying during the alma mater.
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III. Notes

- Committee discussed the potential need for more than two ceremonies in the future.
 - Visitors' restrooms at the bottom of the tunnel will be available for graduates on arena floor.
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IV. Stoles & Cords

- Concern: Increasing requests for “fun stoles” (e.g., tutor, residential life).
- Action: Committee unanimously agreed to **maintain current cord and stole guidelines** with no exceptions.

V. Current Guidelines

If you are an undergraduate student, you must achieve the Inclusive Combined grade point average (GPA) listed below to qualify for honors. Honors are calculated based on the GPA from the previous semester. Information in the program may differ from the final GPA calculation. This GPA includes Tennessee Tech and transferred coursework.

- Cum Laude: 3.50 – 3.69 (solid purple)
- Magna Cum Laude: 3.70 – 3.89 (solid gold)
- Summa Cum Laude: 3.90 – 4.00 (purple/gold/white)

You can view your inclusive combined GPA by logging into your Eagle Online account – select “Student Records” and “Student GPA.”

Cords are available to honors students through the University Bookstore. You may purchase cords at Senior Salute or contact the University Bookstore at 931-372-3131. Some colleges or honors societies may provide cords to their honors students. As a reminder, cords are part of the academic regalia and must be purchased through the University Bookstore.

Graduation Stoles

A graduation or academic stole is a decorative vestment worn by students who are members of university registered student organizations and athletic teams. Special recognition is also available for first-generation and active military and veteran graduates. No personal, individual stoles are allowed.

Tech’s registered student organizations:

<https://www.tntech.edu/studentactivities/orgs/list.php>

All regalia must be purchased through the University Bookstore. Exception: Students involved in registered student organizations affiliated with an inter/national organization that has a licensed

trademark (example: Greek organizations) may wear stoles purchased from the inter/national organization.

The cost of the stole, unless issued by a university college or athletics, is the responsibility of the organization or the individual graduating student. Check with your academic college or organization for more information.

If your organization's planned use of an accessory falls outside of the guidelines above, contact your organization's advisor or sponsor who should contact the Committee on Commencements, Convocations, and Academic Ceremonies for consideration. Organizations who fail to follow the established policy will jeopardize the organization's ability to be represented with stoles in future commencement ceremonies.