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## Policy Regarding Honors Cords at Graduation

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# Policy regarding Honor Cords at Graduation.

Submitted by Del Shilling

2/24/2014

## Question:

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What are the absolute requirements regarding student display of association related cords/sashes, etc. during commencement?

## Rationale:

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There are international and national student member organizations that recognize achievement of graduates (academic and service) through award of honor cords/sashes to be worn with regalia. Most universities allow these, and many Georgia Southern graduates have been recognized by award of these honors as well . It is very evident at every commencement that Georgia Southern is not enforcing the current policy regarding cords/sashes/mortarboard enhancements. How may we dialog and reach a consensus on this matter?

## RESPONSE:

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The SEC accepts this RFI and would like to send it to the following office: 1) Policy Regarding Honor Cords at Graduation submitted by D. Shilling (TO THE REGISTRAR)

4/21/2014: Jayne Perkins-Brown/Velma Burden:

QUESTION: What are the absolute requirements regarding student display of association related cords/sashes, etc. during commencement?

Response: The only official recognized accessories at commencement are the University honor cords (blue and white honor cord) associated with Latin honors (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude). Reminders of appropriate dress are noted in the Commencement brochure, <http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/graduationinformation/>

Decorum, pg 2: No honor society or sorority/fraternity scarves or other accessories may be worn. Academic Attire, pg 3: Caps and gowns are required, and only academic attire approved for the ceremony may be worn. No honor society or sorority/fraternity scarves or other accessories may be worn.

Undergraduate Student Information: Academic Attire, pg 8: Caps and gowns are required, and only academic attire approved for the ceremony may be worn. Special scarves and other accessories, which include but are not limited to Honors Society scarves/cords and Sorority/Fraternity scarves, are not approved Commencement attire and should not be worn. Graduation with Honors/Honor Cords, pg 8: Letters will be mailed before the end of the semester to all undergraduate candidates graduating with honors. Your honor cord will be included with your attire. Pin the honor cord to the gown on the left shoulder. The Commencement program also carries a statement regarding the cord.

RATIONALE: There are international and national student member organizations that recognize achievement of graduates (academic and service) through award of honor cords/sashes to be worn with regalia. Most universities allow these, and many Georgia Southern graduates have been recognized by a ward of these honors as well . It is very evident at every commencement that Georgia Southern is not enforcing the current policy regarding cords/sashes/mortarboard enhancements. How may we dialog and reach a consensus on this matter?

Response: As stated above, the only official recognized accessories at commencement are the University honor cords (blue and white honor cord) associated with Latin honors (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude).

Registrar staff and volunteers assisting at commencement are advised in their training for the ceremony/line-up of the policy and to advise students of appropriate attire for the ceremony. Support staff for student line-up at commencement exercises remind/advise students of the policy and ask them to remove items other than honor cords. We are

aware that students often put these back on prior to crossing the stage, although they have been advised of approved attire.