

A Guide to Regalia Rice University Commencement 2017

Three main garments compose the regalia — cap, gown, and hood. In addition, a stole is worn by many undergraduates at Rice to indicate an affiliation with one of Rice’s residential colleges.

The **bachelor’s gown** is the simplest in design and has long, pointed sleeves. For undergraduate degrees, a palette of four colors denotes a specific academic field:

- Golden yellow — Science and Engineering
- White — Humanities and Social Science
- Pink — Music
- Brown — Architecture

For example, these three Martel students at right wear a light blue stole. Note the different hood colors: yellow (bachelor of science degrees, includes most engineering majors) and white (bachelor of arts degrees, includes humanities and social sciences majors). Pink hoods denote degrees from the Shepherd School of Music.



The **master’s gown**, which is slightly more elaborate, has oblong sleeves open at the wrist. At Rice, the gowns are blue. As with the undergraduate degrees, the hood color indicates the field of the degree. For graduate degrees, an expanded palette denotes a specific academic field/type of degree. The designations are slightly different. The most common hood colors are for the Master of Arts (white) and Master of Science (yellow) degrees.

- White — (all Master of Arts degrees) Letters and Humanities
- Golden yellow — (all Master of Science degrees) Science
- Drab — (MBA) Commerce, Accountancy, Business
- Orange — (Professional Masters Degrees) Engineering
- Brown — (Master of Architecture) Fine Arts and Architecture
- Pink — (Master of Music) Music



Here is an example of (at left) MBA recipients (blue masters gown / mortar board, and drab hood) and (at right) a Master of Architecture recipient (blue masters gown / mortar board, and brown hood)

The **doctor's gown** is, appropriately, the most elaborate — velvet trim runs down the front and around the neck, and three velvet bars decorate the bell-shaped sleeves. Special blue gowns for Rice doctoral students were introduced at the 1997 Commencement.

For PhD degrees, the hoods are trimmed in velvet, with the following colors:

- Blue — Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Pink — Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)



Marshals wear gray robes with blue trim, with the hood corresponding to their PhD granting institution.

Undergraduates serving as **ushers and assistants to the marshals** wear bachelor's gowns of royal blue with no sashes or hoods.

