ACADEMIC DRESS POLICY

Current version in effect from:	13 Aug 2026
Approved by Council:	4 Oct 2017
Revised by Council:	12 Aug 2026

Related documents

Regulation 1 Council: 1.9

Graduation Ceremonies Policy

1. Aims and Rationale

1.1 This policy establishes the forms of academic dress for members of the University of Divinity, and the rules for the wearing of academic dress at University ceremonies by members of the University and by visitors and guests.

2. Scope

2.1 This policy applies to all members of the University, including students, graduands, alumni, academic and professional staff and office-bearers.

3. Principles

3.1 The forms of academic dress at the University enhance the reputation of its awards and honour the academic achievements of its members.

3.2 The University provides enduring forms of academic dress that ensure alumni are easily able to identify the correct form of dress for their degrees, diplomas and certificates.

3.3 Graduation ceremonies and other ceremonial occasions are appropriately ordered, according respect to the Chancellor and senior office-bearers as representatives of the University and honouring the academic achievements of the University's members, visitors and guests.

4. Rules for wearing academic dress

4.1. Academic dress is worn by all members of the University at graduation ceremonies.

4.2 The form of academic dress at other University events may be determined by the Vice-Chancellor. These rules apply when academic dress is worn at other University events, unless the Vice-Chancellor determines otherwise.

4.3 The academic dress worn by senior officers of the University is set out in Schedule A to this Policy which may only be amended by the Council.

4.4 Members of the University (other than graduands of the University attending a graduation ceremony) wear the academic dress of their highest qualification as prescribed by the awarding institution, provided that when such a member holds two qualifications of the same level the member wears the academic dress of only one of the awards.

4.5 At a graduation ceremony graduands must only wear the academic dress of the award they are receiving at that ceremony. Graduands who already hold an academic award (whether from the University or from another institution) may not wear the academic dress of that award.

4.6 At a graduation ceremony, graduands who are receiving two or more awards must wear the academic dress of only one of those awards, such that:

a) graduands wear the academic dress of the highest award being received; and

b) where a graduand is receiving two awards at the same level, the graduand chooses to wear the academic dress of only one of the awards for the duration of the ceremony.

5. Forms of academic dress for awards of the University

5.1 Gowns

5.1.1 The gown for an undergraduate certificate, diploma, bachelor degree, graduate certificate or graduate diploma is a Bachelor's gown of black fabric, featuring bell-shaped sleeves.

5.1.2 The gown for master's degrees is a Master's gown of black fabric, featuring full-length sleeves with an opening in the sleeve for the arms.

5.1.3 The gown for a doctoral degree features wrist-length bell shape sleeves and traditional pencil pleating gathered across the back and shoulders of the robe. The cuff of the sleeves features a coloured lining of 6.5cm and the front facing of the gown features a coloured lining of 10.5cm. A doctoral gown may be in the form prescribed for the full dress doctoral gown of the University of Oxford or of the University of Melbourne or in another style approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

5.2 Hoods

5.2.1 Hoods are in the Oxford Burgon style and, except for doctoral hoods which may be made of coloured fabric, are made of black fabric fully lined with colour.

5.3 Trenchers and Bonnets

5.3.1 A trencher (or mortarboard) is a black cap surmounted by a stiff black square with a black tassel. Trenchers are usually reserved for the academic dress of postgraduate awards.

5.3.2 A bonnet is a black velvet hat of circular shape with a brim, and braid and tassel in gold (unless otherwise specified). Bonnets are usually reserved for the academic dress of doctoral awards.

5.4 Colours and Styles

5.4.1 The colour and style of dress used for academic dress of each current award of the University is established in Schedule B which may only be amended by the Vice-Chancellor after seeking the advice of the Academic Board.

5.5 Historic Academic Dress

5.5.1 The colour and style of dress used for academic dress of each former award of the University is recorded in Schedule C. This information may only be amended by the Vice-Chancellor so far as is necessary to ensure the Schedule contains a complete record of academic dress for each forward award.

6. Date of next review

6.1 This policy must be reviewed no later than 31 December 2031.

SCHEDULE A: Academic dress for senior officers of the University
Approved by Council: 4 October 2017

Role	Academic Dress
Chancellor	The Chancellor's Gown: A gown of red 'St Margaret' damask, the facings and flap-collar of black 'St Margaret' damask edged with gold B&S lace bordered both sides red and gold dice braid; shoulder wings embroidered with a mimosa pattern in gold bullion on black cloth either side of the University badge in full colour; on the sleeve boots a triquetra in gold B&S lace bordered on outer edges with red and gold dice braid, surmounted by the University badge embroidered in full colour on a black background; the t-slit armholes bordered with gold B&S lace, edged outside with red and gold dice braid, the rear slit in the gown coat bordered similarly. The Chancellor's Gown is worn with a black bonnet with a braid and tassel of red and gold.
Vice-Chancellor	The Vice-Chancellor's Gown: As for the Chancellor, except that the sleeves are black 'St Margaret' damask, and silver is used in place of gold throughout. The Vice-Chancellor's Gown is worn with a black bonnet with a braid and tassel of red.
Presiding Officer at Graduation Ceremony (if not the Chancellor)	As for The Chancellor
Council members	Academic dress of the highest qualification held; or a Master's gown and trencher
Mace-bearer	Academic dress of the highest qualification held; or a Master's gown and trencher

SCHEDULE B: Current Awards of the University
Approved by Vice-Chancellor: 5 Jul 2023, 12 Aug 2026, 24 Nov 2026

Degree	Gown	Headwear	Hood Colour	Colour Code	Colour Sample	
Undergraduate Certificate (All)	Bachelor	None	None			
Diploma (All)	Bachelor	None	None			
Advanced Diploma (All)	Bachelor	None	None			
Bachelor of Counselling	Bachelor	None	Lilac	BCC 176		
Bachelor of Ministry	Bachelor	None	Malachite	BCC 23		
Bachelor of Theology	Bachelor	None	Light Pink	BCC 14		
Graduate Certificate (All)	Bachelor	Trencher	None			
Graduate Diploma (All)	Bachelor	Trencher	None			
Master of Counselling	Masters	Trencher	Lilac with a 25mm White Ribbon	BCC 176		
Master of Divinity	Masters	Trencher	Imperial Purple	BCC 109		
Master of Education and Theology	Masters	Trencher	Stewart with a 25mm Light Blue ribbon	BCC 149		
Master of Leadership	Masters	Trencher	Garnet	BCC 160		
Master of Pastoral and Spiritual Care	Masters	Trencher	Jade	BCC 122		
Master of Philosophical Studies	Masters	Trencher	Olive Green	BCC 78		

Master of Philosophy	Masters	Trencher	Cherry with a 25mm white ribbon	BCC 185		
Master of Professional Practice	Masters	Trencher	Malachite with a 25mm white ribbon	BCC 23		
Master of Spirituality	Masters	Trencher	Lemon	BCC 52		
Master of Spiritual Direction	Masters	Trencher	Gold	BCC 114		
Master of Theological Studies	Masters	Trencher	Light Pink with a 25mm White ribbon	BCC 14		
Master of Theology	Masters	Trencher	Magenta with a 25mm White ribbon	BCC 198		
Doctor of Ministry**	Doctoral: Black faced with Garnet	Bonnet	Black fabric lined with Garnet	BCC 23		
Doctor of Philosophy	Doctoral: Black faced with Cherry	Bonnet	Black fabric lined with Cherry	BCC 185		
Doctor of Professional Practice	Doctoral: Black faced with Malachite	Bonnet	Black fabric lined with Malachite	BCC 23		
Doctor of Theology*	Doctoral: Black faced with Imperial Purple	Bonnet	Black fabric lined with Imperial Purple	BCC 109		
Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa)	Doctoral: Cherry faced with Old Gold	Bonnet	Cherry fabric lined with Old Gold	BCC 185 & BCC 115		

*Teach out award
**Teach-out award from Adelaide College of Divinity using existing regalia owned by UCLT.

SCHEDULE C: Former Awards of the University

Approved by Vice-Chancellor: 11 Oct 2017, 12 Aug 2026

Dates offered*	Degree	Gown	Headwear	Hood Colour	Colour Code	Notes
1911-2008	Bachelor of Divinity	Bachelor	None	Petunia	BCC 109	
2004-2017	Master of Arts (Biblical Studies)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	renamed Master of Biblical Studies in 2017
2004-2017	Master of Arts (Church History)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	renamed Master of Church History in 2017
2004-2014	Master of Arts (Faith Leadership)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	
2004-2014	Master of Arts (Liturgy)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	
2004-2014	Master of Arts (Moral Theology)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	
2009-2017	Master of Arts (Pastoral Care)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	renamed Master of Pastoral Care in 2017
2004-2017	Master of Arts (Philosophy)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	renamed Master of Philosophical Studies in 2017
2004-2017	Master of Arts (Social Justice)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	
2004-2017	Master of Arts (Spiritual Direction)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	renamed Master of Spiritual Direction in 2017
2004-2017	Master of Arts (Spirituality)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	renamed Master of Spirituality in 2017

1999-2017	Master of Arts (Theology)	Masters	Trencher	Stewart	BCC 149	renamed Master of Theological Studies in 2017
2017-2023	Master of Biblical Studies	Masters	Trencher	Juniper	BCC 192	
2017-2023	Master of Church History	Masters	Trencher	Garnet	BCC 160	
1990-2011	Master of Ministry	Masters	Trencher	Malachite	BCC 23	
2017-2023	Master of Pastoral Care	Masters	Trencher	Jade	BCC 122	Renamed Master of Pastoral and Spiritual Care in 2021
1997-2017	Master of Theological Studies	Masters	Trencher	Magenta with 25mm white ribbon	BCC 198	renamed Master of Theology (Coursework) in 2017
2017-2023	Master of Theology (Coursework)	Masters	Trencher	Magenta with a 25mm White ribbon	BCC 198	Renamed Master of Theology in 2021
1956-2021	Master of Theology (Research)	Masters	Trencher	Magenta	BCC 198	
1996-2015	Doctor of Ministry Studies	Doctoral: Black faced with Malachite	Bonnet	Malachite	BCC 23	
1972-2011	Doctor of Divinity	Doctoral: Cherry faced with Petunia	Bonnet	Cherry fabric lined with Petunia	BCC 185 & BCC 109	
1992-2014	Doctor of Sacred Theology (honoris causa)	Doctoral: Cherry faced with Petunia	Bonnet	Cherry fabric lined with Petunia	BCC 185 & BCC 109	

*including teach-out periods