Adornment Policy

Main Ceremony (Alumni Lawn)
Vanderbilt abides by a “No Adornment” policy for all graduating students.

Cords, stoles, pins, medals of any kind are not approved to wear at the main ceremony. This includes but is not limited to any personal, academic or professional adornment.

The only approved exception is the black and gold Vanderbilt Kente Cloth presented through the Black Cultural Center each Spring. Any other version of a Kente Cloth is not allowed for use during Commencement.

Specific items NOT allowed:
• Personal adornments of any kind on cap/tam or gown
• Cords of any kind regardless of the academic or professional honor
• Stoles
• Pins or brooches
• Flower necklaces

Graduate/Professional Ceremonies
Please consult with your individual school for specific policies.

Questions should be directed to the Office of Commencement and Special Events.
commencement@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-2870

*This policy has been approved by Academic Affairs and the Office of Commencement and Special Events.

Updated: 11/16/15