

University Emblems

The Mace

The mace is carried by the Marshal as a symbol of the authority of the University to confer degrees. Originally a weapon of war, the mace came to be used as an emblem of military power and civil authority. Its use as a symbol of university authority dates back to medieval times.

The Mercer mace was designed in 1960 by Marshall Daugherty, professor of art in the College of Liberal Arts, and was first used for the inauguration of President Rufus C. Harris. It depicts a cross atop a globe, symbolizing the spiritual commitment of the University as it seeks to understand the world. Circumscribing the globe are the words, "Mercer University, 1833," symbolizing the influence of Mercer throughout the world. Beneath the larger globe is a smaller one, which represents the microcosm of the University. This in turn, rests

Academic Regalia

The practice of wearing academic attire extends back to medieval times and the Renaissance, when it was the custom for teachers and students in European universities to wear gowns, caps, and hoods. Although the wearing of the garb is now limited to formal occasions, the garb itself may be called the uniform of the professional scholar and teacher. The style and color serve as symbols of collegiate attainment.

The long sleeves of the gowns and the deep hoods were, on occasion, used to carry books and refreshments. Each European university developed its own style of garb with strict rules for its design. In the United States, however, most American colleges have agreed on a uniform design and color code.

Holders of bachelor's, masters, and doctoral degrees wear black gowns; the pattern and trimming differ for each degree. Originally, the bachelor's gown was made of serge or worsted and the master's of serge, worsted, or silk but now synthetic fibers are also used. The bachelor's gown is distinguished by its long pointed sleeves.

atop a form suggestive of a spire. The mace is made of bronze.

The Presidential Seal

The seal is worn by the President as a sign of authority. The seal was designed by Professor Otis D. Knight and Professor Marshall Daugherty and was first used for the inauguration of President Rufus C. Harris in 1960.

The seal, which was carved directly in fine silver and bronze, is a mandola-shaped pendant that depicts the form of the Mercer Administration Building, a ribbon, and a stylized stained-glass window of Willingham Auditorium. The background is in bronze and the window is in blue and red cloisonné enamel. On the border are inscribed the name of the University in Latin and the date of its founding. The shape of the seal is traditional for early university seals.

The master's gown has long sleeves with a slit for the arm at either the elbow or the wrist. Doctor's gowns are adorned with velvet panels and bars that may be black or of a color distinctive to the wearer's discipline.

Holders of all degrees wear caps, popularly known as mortarboards, to which a long tassel is fastened and which hangs over the left side of the cap. Doctors may wear tassels of gold thread. Holders of bachelor's and master's degrees may wear colors indicating the faculty by which their degrees were granted. Mercer Arts and Business graduates wear black tassels, and graduates of the Southern School of Pharmacy wear olive green tassels.

The academic hood is an ornamental fold that goes around the neck and hangs down the back of the gown. The length and shape of the hood vary with the level of the degree. Hoods are generally lined with the colors of the university that granted the degree and trimmed with the color representing the faculty by which the degree is granted.

The following colors are associated with the various faculties:

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|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Arts, Letters, Humanities | White |
| Commence, Accountancy, Business | Drab |
| Education | Light Blue |
| Engineering | Orange |
| Journalism | Crimson |
| Law | Purple |
| Library Science | Lemon |
| Medicine | Green |
| Music | Pink |
| Nursing | Apricot |
| Speech | Silver Gray |
| Pharmacy | Olive Green |
| Philosophy | Dark Blue |
| Physical Education | Sage Green |
| Science | Golden Yellow |
| Theology | Scarlet |