

University Policies related to Commencement Ceremonies (April 1, 2014)

Regalia

All graduates who choose to process must wear traditional black regalia (cap, gown and tassel). Those who wish to wear military uniforms may do so under the regalia. While we are proud of our students who have served or continue to serve in the military, commencement is an academic ceremony and must be treated as such.

Caps

Students who choose to decorate their caps may do so in a tasteful manner. Caps may be decorated on the top only and any decorations must lie flat on the cap. Nothing may hang or dangle from the cap, other than the traditional tassel. Faculty marshals and representatives from the office of the president reserve the right to refuse decorations if they are regarded as distasteful or excessive.

Cords, Stoles and Pins

Cords, Stoles and Pins representing academic honor societies and/or official student organizations, which are in good standing with the University, may be worn with regalia. Beginning in Spring, 2014, all such drapes and adornments must be registered with the office of the president and the design approved by the same office. While both members of honor societies and student organizations may all wear cords, stoles and pins, only the academic honor societies will be included in the commencement program. Please note that such items may only be worn at the commencement ceremony and not at Baccalaureate.

Commencement Address

The president of the university will invite a noted speaker to present the commencement address. Suggestions for such a speaker are welcome from faculty, staff and students. There will be no student commencement speakers at the ceremony. There will, however, be other opportunities for graduate participation in the event. The office of the president will invite a graduate to give the benediction at the ceremony and will invite selected members of the TLU Choir to lead the singing of the TLU Alma Mater.

Degree Requirements

Students must have completed all degree requirements in order to graduate and may not have any incompletes or in-progress grades on their transcript. TLU confers diplomas in summer, but there is no summer graduation ceremony. Summer graduates may participate in the December or May ceremony following their graduation.

Graduation with Honors

Students who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above will graduate with honors according to the following scale: Cum Laude = 3.50-3.74; Magna Cum Laude = 3.75-3.89; Summa Cum Laude = 3.90-4.00. Beginning in the 2013-2014 academic year,

students who have entered the disciplinary system and have been found responsible while classified as a junior or senior for violating the academic honesty and plagiarism policy as found in the code of conduct section of the TLU Student Handbook will not be allowed to graduate with honors.