

## Clergy Shirt

A clergy shirt is a clerical, not a vestment. There are two types: [neckband shirts](#) and [tab-collar shirts](#). Though many people associate clergy shirts with the Roman Catholic Church that is only because the sheer size makes their clergy conspicuous. Clergy shirts (black shirts with white tabs or collars) are actually of Protestant origin. The Rev. Dr. Donald McLeod of the Church of England invented the neck-band shirt style. Protestant clergy had been wearing white preaching bands for quite some time; McLeod combined them with the detachable collar that was in use at the time. The Roman Catholic Church did not adopt them as street wear for clergy until later. They modified Rev. McLeod's design into the tab-collar style.

The terms "Roman collar" or "Roman shirt" refer to style, not origin. Clergy shirts are Protestant in origin. The Roman Catholic Church did not adopt them as street wear for clergy until the 19th century.

Tab-collar shirts come in all colors and fabrics, but the general public often does not immediately perceive them as clergy shirts if they are not black.

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## Clerical

The term 'clericals' refers to the clothing and accessories that clergy wear as street clothes, such as a [tab-collar shirt](#), which make it evident that they are clergy. The difference between clericals and vestments is that clericals are street clothes, while vestments are only worn during worship.

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## Robe

Many people use the term *robe* as a synonym for *vestment*, but in actual fact, a robe is not a vestment at all. It is an ankle-length gown with long sleeves; there are four types of robes, all of which are modern forms of the academic robes that professors used to wear while on the job in medieval universities. The four types are *choir*

*robes, clergy robes, academic gowns, and judicial robes.* Only the first three types are worn in church. All types of robes are designed to be worn over street clothing.

*Choir robes* come in a large variety of styles and colors. They give the choir a unified appearance

*Academic gowns* come in [three forms](#) corresponding to bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees. The doctoral robe sometimes appears in church. It has puffy sleeves with three stripes on the forearm, indicating that the wearer possesses a doctoral degree. When they are used in church, academic gowns are most often worn without the square cap or the long, decorative hood down the back that normally complete the outfit. If there is a hood, the colors indicate the wearer's field of study and alma mater. (You can find out the color code for the [fields of study](#) in the United States.)

*Clergy robes* mark clergy who do not have a doctorate degree or who do not choose to wear their doctoral robes. Even though most clergy have a master's degree, clergy robes are modified forms of the baccalaureate robe, probably because contemporary master's robes have an odd appearance. Clergy robes are nearly identical to judicial robes, except that clergy robes often have a sort of built-in stole; a wide stripe running down both sides of the zipper in the front, often with decorated with Christian symbols.

Unlike vestments, robes are not worn by lay leaders. The original purpose of the robe was to indicate that the wearer had the authority of academic credentials. John Calvin started the tradition of wearing academic robes in church. He was not able to wear vestments because he was not ordained clergy, but he did have an academic law degree. For that reason, clergy robes are most common in churches that are in the Reformed tradition, such as Presbyterian churches, and in other groups with Calvinist roots, such as Baptists. Choir robes are nearly universal.

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### **Official Degree Color Chart**

This **Academic Hood Colors List** serves an important function for your set of graduation Academic Regalia (hood, tam, and gown). The regalia hood colors typically

include four sections: shell fabric, velvet edge, satin field, and satin chevron. The color of the velvet edge is determined using this **official degree color chart**. That velvet edge hood color, sometimes known as Academic Regalia Inter-Collegiate Colors, represents your specific degree or discipline. The satin field and chevron (the hood lining colors) represent your university or college school colors. The overall size and shape represents the type of degree: bachelors, masters, or doctoral (with the narrow end getting progressively longer with the higher ranking degrees). Finally, the fabric shell color simply matches the fabric color of the graduation gown, which is usually black but sometimes is another color depending on the degree-granting institution. Associate degrees use a special cowl instead of a hood.

Below is the official academic regalia hood color list. Your academic hood colors are ultimately the decision of your degree-granting institution and you. However, these are the official academic regalia colors.

See the footnote for PhD degrees, rules regarding multiple degrees, and determining your field and chevron colors.

**Academic Regalia Inter-Collegiate Colors**

<b>Drab</b>	<b>Maize</b>	<b>Blue-Violet</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Light Blue</b>
Accounting	Agriculture	Architecture	Arts	Arts in Education
<b>Drab</b>	<b>Drab</b>	<b>Scarlet</b>	<b>Nile Green</b>	<b>Silver</b>
Business Administration	Business Education	Canon Law	Chiropody	Chiropractic
<b>Blue-Violet</b>	<b>Orange</b>	<b>Drab</b>	<b>Drab</b>	<b>Crimson</b>
City Planning	Civil Engineering	Commerce	Commercial Science	Communication
<b>Russet</b>	<b>Light Blue</b>	<b>Science Gold</b>	<b>Lilac</b>	<b>Lilac</b>
Conservation	Counseling and Guidance	Criminology	Dental Surgery	Dentistry
<b>Scarlet</b>	<b>Brown</b>	<b>Copper</b>	<b>Light Blue</b>	<b>Orange</b>

Divinity	Dramatic Arts	Economics	Education	Engineering
<b>White</b>	<b>Science Gold</b>	<b>Brown</b>	<b>Aquamarine</b>	<b>Peacock Blue</b>
English	Environmental Science	Fine Arts	Foreign Affairs	Foreign Service
<b>Russet</b>	<b>Peacock Blue</b>	<b>Sage Green</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Sage Green</b>
Forestry	Government	Health and Rehabilitation	History	Hygiene
<b>Science Gold</b>	<b>Drab</b>	<b>Crimson</b>	<b>Purple</b>	<b>Purple</b>
Industrial Arts	Industrial and Labor Relations	Journalism	Jurisprudence	Law
<b>White</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Lemon</b>	<b>Science Gold</b>	<b>Kelly Green</b>
Letters	Literature	Library Science	Mathematics	Medicine
<b>Science Gold</b>	<b>Pink</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Apricot</b>	<b>Aquamarine</b>
Military Science	Music	Naprapathy	Nursing	Optometry
<b>Silver</b>	<b>Kelly Green</b>	<b>Light Blue</b>	<b>Peacock Blue</b>	<b>Olive</b>
Oratory	Osteopathy	Pedagogy	Personnel Services	Pharmacy
<b>Science Gold</b>	<b>Dark Blue</b>	<b>Sage Green</b>	<b>Science Gold</b>	<b>Nile Green</b>
Philanthropy	Philosophy*	Physical Science	Physics	Podiatry

<b>Science Gold</b>	<b>Dark Blue</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Peacock Blue</b>	<b>Salmon Pink</b>
Police Science	Political Science	Psychology	Public Administration	Public Health
<b>Peacock Blue</b>	<b>Blue-Violet</b>	<b>Light Blue</b>	<b>Scarlet</b>	<b>Citron</b>
Public Service	Regional Planning	Religious Education	Sacred Theology	Sanitary Science
<b>Science Gold</b>	<b>Dark Blue</b>	<b>Citron</b>	<b>Citron</b>	<b>Citron</b>
Science	Social Ethics	Social Science	Social Service	Social Work
<b>White</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Nile Green</b>	<b>Scarlet</b>	<b>Citron</b>
Sociology	Speech	Surgical Chiropody	Theology	Urban Life
<b>Blue-Violet</b>	<b>Gray</b>			<b>Dark Blue</b>
Urban Planning	Veterinary Science			PhD Blue *

\* In determining your academic regalia colors, please note the following: All PhD degrees (as opposed to Doctorate degrees) use "PhD Blue", which is dark blue, in the academic colors. For example, a Doctorate in Psychology would include in your academic hood colors the color Gold; however a PhD in Psychology would use dark blue. If you are unsure if your degree is a Doctorate or PhD, please contact your administrative advisor to determine your precise degree title and academic regalia hood colors.

If you have **multiple degrees**, the rule is that you use only one hood and only one degree/discipline color. You use the hood and color that represents your highest ranking degree (with Doctoral as highest, Masters as second highest, Bachelors as third highest and associate as the lowest). If you have two different degrees at the same highest ranking degree, you generally use the most recently awarded degree as your hood.

If you have an **unlisted degree**, there is no official color and it is dependant on the individual college or university to determine the color to be used for your hood. Typically, the most similar degree on the official chart is chosen. For example, if your degree is in an advance computer science field, usually the school chooses Science Gold for the degree color.

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### **Hood Lining Colors (Field and Chevron)**

The above list describes only your velvet colors. There are three additional colors that typically go into your hood. They are the shell fabric (usually black, but sometimes the color of your robe if your robe is a special color that your university uses), and the lining colors.

Hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. More than one color is shown by division of the field color in a variety of ways. Most schools divide the color by using a single chevron. Occasionally, a school might use more than one chevron, no chevron but instead a single field color, an equal division, a reverse chevron, a straight bar or other methods. While Academic Apparel can make any variety of hoods, please note that the online ordering system assumes a single field and a single standard chevron. For other unusual types of hoods, you will have to use our downloadable fax forms.

The official "Academic Costume Code and Academic Ceremony Guide" includes a sentence that reads as follows: "The various academic costume companies maintain complete files on the approved colors for various institutions."

Once upon a time long ago, that sentence was correct. However, that was before colleges started springing up across the nation at a rapid rate in the last 50 years or so, and before institutions started the practice of changing their hood colors depending on style or taste or the desires of the student body or economics for bulk manufacturing (sometimes even on a yearly basis).

We are the direct manufacturer of academic regalia. This means one good thing and one bad thing (from your perspective).

The good thing is our prices are significantly lower than your degree-granting university would charge to sell them to you, yet the quality is the same or better than what they offer. That's because we are a relatively lean organization, independent, with over 60 years of experience, and we do not pay sales representatives, or have retail stores, or have a large advertising and marketing budget.

The bad thing is we cannot keep up with the changes each university makes to their regalia each year, and therefore require that our customers make their own inquiries to their degree-granting universities to discover what the current regalia colors are supposed to be for that school before placing an order.

We suggest you find out in advance of ordering what your school colors are, and which goes in the field and which goes in the chevron of the hood. You might also ask the following additional information: 1) whether they use 6 or 8 sides for their tam (if you are buying a tam); 2) whether they use a tam or a mortarboard for a Master's degree (if you are inquiring about a master's gown regalia set); 3) whether they use the standard black for the gown and hood shell color or if they have a special color; 4) whether they use an embroidered school emblem or symbol on the gown velvet and if so what it looks like (these are fairly rare, but a few schools use them); 5) and if there is anything special about the regalia not covered by those questions.

Generally the best source for this information is the University book store or student store. Someone at most bookstores has all of this information.

You should know that you have the right to purchase your gown from any manufacturer, and not just the company that has a contract with your university. By getting this information on your own and purchasing your regalia from Academic Apparel, you will be saving money, and getting a regalia set that looks at least as good as what your school offers, and often it looks and feels significantly better than the bulk manufactured Chinese gowns many colleges are now selling (and ours will last longer than those gowns too).

While we would really like to help you obtain this information, and hope to some day send out surveys each year to each university asking for this data, it is beyond our abilities to do so right now. If you are willing to do the footwork to find this information out, we know you will get a superb robe, hood, and tam from us, at prices that cannot be beat.