

A Touch of Colour: Surveying Variation in American Academic Dress and a System of Categories for Departures

By David T. Boven

Since it was developed more than a century ago, the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume (ICC) and its successor have been the dominant force in the realm of academic dress in the United States of America. However, colleges and universities began diverging from the Code shortly after its 1896 adoption as a quasi-official standard. Since Harvard University expressed its preference for the Edinburgh shape hood and added a crow's feet emblem to its gowns in 1902¹ and Brown University's adoption of seal brown square caps in 1912,² institutions have been flouting what was supposed to be a unifying code of dress. These departures from the ICC have continued through to the present day with more and more institutions developing individual schemes of academic dress across the country. Much academic dress—especially at the doctoral level—is far removed from that devised for the original ICC (Fig. 1).³ What follows is an attempt to document these departures for the community of academic dress scholars and to put them into categories, similar to the Groves System.

Introduction and methodology

My earlier article provided a broad outline of this divergence at the level of doctoral academic dress.⁴ This paper is derived largely from the research undertaken for that study. It is an effort to lay out the deviations from the ICC in a systematic way. The list of departures from the ICC's principles is as exhaustive as possible. Unfortunately for those creating a complete list, academic dress is constantly changing. It seems that there is always a new institution that is considering adoption of unique academic dress while at the same time institutions change and adapt their schemes of academic dress for financial reasons or for a simple desire to differentiate themselves from other institutions. At best, this is a snapshot of the state of academic dress in the United States at the beginning of 2013.

The methods employed to collect the information contained in this paper were made

1 Nicholas A. Hoffmann, 'Crow's Feet and Crimson: Academic Dress at Harvard', *TBS*, 9 (2009), p. 46.

2 Stephen L. Wolgast, 'Timeline of Developments in Academic Dress in North America', *TBS*, 9 (2009), pp. 213–18 (p. 216).

3 Gardner C. Leonard, 'Academic Costume', in *A Cyclopaedia of Education*, ed. by Paul Monroe, 5 vols (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1911), Vol. I, pp. 14–18 (p. 17).

4 David T. Boven, 'American Universities' Departures from the Academic Costume Code', *TBS*, 9 (2009), pp. 156–74.



FIG. 1 The doctoral robe as originally prescribed by the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume.

possible by using e-mail communications and Google searches. While researching the deviations in doctoral academic dress, the first locations scoured for information were the websites of American robe and gown suppliers.⁵ These corporations were interested in providing the unique doctoral regalia of individual colleges and placed images of the same on their websites. This provided the starting point for collecting data. From there, strategic Google searches were used to find colleges and universities that advertised unique academic dress on the websites of their campus bookstores. Beyond that, most of the information was garnered from fellow academic dress enthusiasts and others who have noticed unique gowns and robes worn at graduation ceremonies.

Again, the methodological decisions used here make it difficult to provide a comprehensive listing of institutions that have deviated from the guidelines laid out in the ICC. The vast majority of the examples provided here are used for doctoral graduands at American research universities. There are more than 150 of these while there are only about 20 each for holders of master's degrees and bachelor's degrees. This could be

because it is a much greater honour to be admitted to a doctoral degree and, thus, it warrants a unique costume. It could also be a matter of financial concern for universities seeking to provide the cheapest possible rental robes to graduands. The general theme, though, seems to be for universities to stick with the standard academic costume code for the two lower degrees and develop unique dress for doctors.

Departures from the Intercollegiate Code in doctoral academic dress

At the doctoral level, there are generally five forms which the deviations from the ICC scheme take. The first is the most minor change. These institutions use the standard ICC gown and still use the three sleeve bars of the code, but add piping of a contrasting colour around the sleeve bars and the facings of the robe. The second form maintains the black gown, but with the addition of coloured sleeve bars and facings.⁶ The third form changes the colour of the gown itself to some university colour while maintaining black facings and velvet sleeve bars. For the fourth form, the standard ICC shape is still maintained, but the robe and the facings and sleeve bars are all of some colour other than black. Finally there

⁵ The two major ones are Oak Hall Industries and Collegiate Apparel (Herff Jones Inc.).

⁶ The ICC does allow for coloured velvet sleeve bars but only if they reflect the degree colour of the wearer. In the cases described here, the colours are invariably representative of the universities concerned.

are a few universities that have devised academic dress for doctors that is completely different in shape and style from the guidelines of the ICC. In addition to these variations, other slight differences appear in American doctoral robes. These include changes such as gaps between the two facings and the angle of the point at the ends of velvet sleeve bars. In each of these cases, it seems to be a matter of manufacturer preference and not something planned by the university. Such differences have not been included in this discussion.

In an effort to more easily describe the variations in American doctoral dress, I propose that a method of classification be employed similar to that devised by Nicholas Groves for academic dress in the United Kingdom.⁷ In keeping with that system, it would be appropriate to describe American doctoral robes using a letter and number nomenclature. In this case, I propose the letter C be used to refer to the Intercollegiate Code devised in the late-nineteenth century. For the first four categories of deviations—which maintain the ICC shape while changing colours of different parts—the robes could be described with a letter and number combination along with the colour change employed. These are described more fully below. The fifth category of deviation is generally unique robes and could each be given its own number designation. Since there is so little differentiation at the bachelor's degree level and the master's degree level aside from the colour of the gown, these have been left out of the new classification scheme.

[c1] Coloured piping

The following chart lists schools that have added only coloured piping to the sleeve bars and facings of their doctoral robes. This is commonly one of the university's traditional colours, but is also often simple gold or white (Fig. 2).⁸ The last column refers to the custom of placing some university symbol at chest level on the facings for doctoral robes, something added to the academic dress of many institutions in all categories. Generally, it is a representation of the university's seal, but it can be a logo, a coat of arms, or a symbol of the state in which a public university is located. If there is such a symbol on each facing, it is noted. Seals listed as being on the left or right are described from the point of view of the wearer. For more information about the symbols used, please refer to the appendix. In the proposed classification scheme, these deviations would be [c1] along with the colour of the piping. Thus, the State University of New York at Buffalo would be [c1] Gold.

⁷ Nicholas Groves, 'Towards a Standard Terminology for Describing Academic Dress', *Burgon Society Annual*, 1 (2001), pp. 9–12.

⁸ This image shows mathematician Herbert Hauptman receiving an honorary degree at the 2009 SUNY Buffalo commencement ceremony.

Institution	[c1] Coloured piping	
	Piping colour	Seal(s) on facing
Alabama (Tuscaloosa), University of ⁹	Crimson	Both
Buffalo, University of	Gold	None
Catholic University of America	Gold	Both
Eastern Michigan University	White	Both
Houston, University of	Red	Both
Houston (Clear Lake), University of	Gold	Both
Incarnate Word, University of the	Red	Both
Louisville, University of	Red	Left
Purdue University	Gold	Both
Rosalind Franklin University	White	Both
South Carolina, Medical University of	Gold	Both
Texas (Tyler), University of	Orange	None

[c2] Coloured sleeve bars and facings

These doctoral robes adhere to the standard ICC shape, but rather than using the standard black velvet for the three sleeve bars and facings, they use velvet of some other colour. The example of a Princeton University gown is in Fig. 3.¹⁰ This is still often bordered by piping of a contrasting colour, which is noted in the chart. As above, the final column refers to the custom of placing some university symbol at the top of the facing for doctoral robes. In the proposed classification scheme, these deviations would be [c2] along with the colour of the trim. Thus, the University of Arkansas would be [c2] Cardinal Red. Different coloured piping can also be added to the description if it exists. In this case, Grambling State University would be described as [c2] Gold, piped White.

Institution	[c2] Coloured sleeve bars and facings		
	Facings and bars	Piping	Seals
Arkansas, University of	Cardinal Red	None	Both
Grambling State University	Gold	White	Both
Iowa, University of	Gold	White	None
Luther Seminary	Red	Gold	Both
Maryland (Baltimore County), University of	Yellow	White	None
Phoenix, University of	Dark Cardinal	None	None
Princeton University ¹¹	Orange	None	None
Tufts University	Sky Blue	Mixed ¹²	None
Union University	Royal Blue	Gold	Both

9 The University of Alabama System is governed by a board of trustees that oversees three public universities. Though the presidents of the three universities all report directly to the board of trustees, these are all autonomous institutions. As such, they have made their own decisions regarding academic dress. Similar situations exist in most other states. Where institutions are simply branch campuses of other universities, they generally use the same academic dress.

10 Denise Applewhite, 'Princeton University', <<http://www.princeton.edu/pr/gradpics/2011/comm/>>, last modified 2011 (accessed 7 Jan. 2013).

11 Princeton University has two optional forms of doctoral academic dress. What the university designates as 'Doctor #2' is described here as being the standard ICC shape with orange sleeve bars and facings. A further explanation of these two styles can be found in Donald L. Drakeman, "Peculiar Habits": Academic Costumes at Princeton University', *TBS*, 9 (2009), pp. 59–79 (p. 71).

12 Tufts uses brown around the facings and sleeve bars but uses sky blue around the yoke.

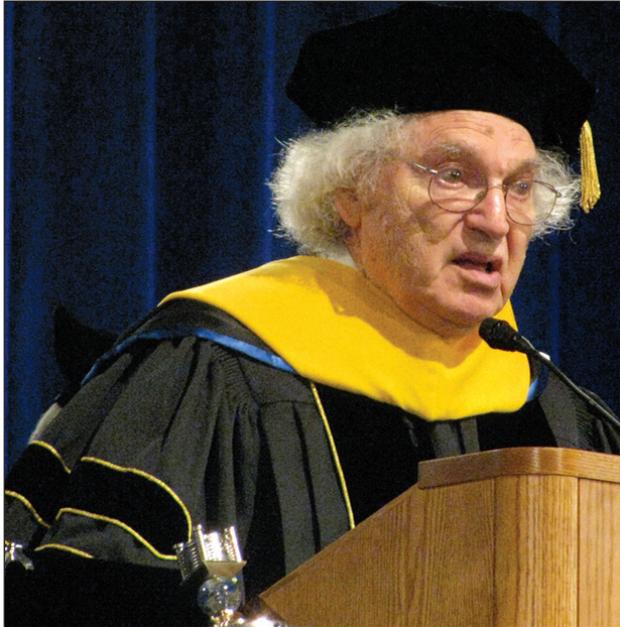


FIG. 2 [c1] The SUNY Buffalo doctoral robe, with gold piping around the sleeve bars and facings.



FIG. 3 [c2] Princeton University's 'Doctor #2' mimics the ICC's DEng.



FIG. 4 [c3] The doctoral robe of Northwestern University.

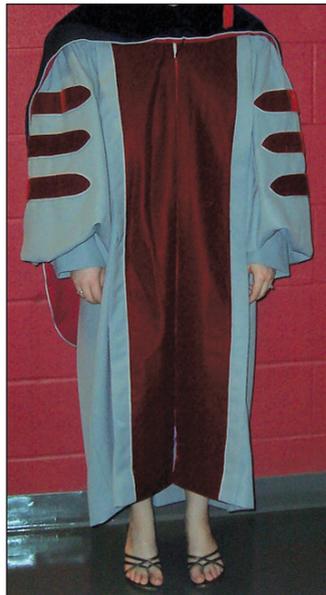


FIG. 5 [c4] The doctoral robe of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



FIG. 6 [c6] The robe of a Stanford University Doctor of Philosophy.

[c3] Coloured gowns

The most popular form of deviation from the ICC is the introduction of coloured gowns that retain the standard shape and black facings and sleeve bars. An example from Northwestern University is pictured, but the colours used are myriad (Fig. 4).¹³ Starting with Yale in 1938, this has become a favourite form for the prestigious Ivy League schools with Harvard, Columbia, Brown, Dartmouth, Cornell, and Pennsylvania all following suit. As in the previous examples, black velvet trim of these robes is still often bordered by piping of a contrasting colour and this is noted in the chart. Also as above, the last column refers to the custom of placing some university symbol at the top of the facing for doctoral robes. In the proposed classification scheme, these deviations would be [c3] along with the colour of the robe. As in the previous category, the colour of the piping can also be added to the description. In cases where the piping is the only differentiating feature between two institution's academic dress, this is especially important. For example Andrews University would be [c3] Blue, piped Gold, and Clark University would be [c3] Blue, not piped.

[c3] Coloured gowns

Institution	Gown	Piping	Seal(s)
Adelphi University	Brown	Gold	Both
Alabama (Birmingham), University of	Forest Green	Gold	Both
Albany Law School	Maroon	Gold	None
Albany Medical College	Maroon	White	None
Albany, State University of New York at	Dark Purple	Gold	Both
Andrews University	Blue	Gold	Left
Arizona, University of	Blue	Red	None
Asbury Theological Seminary	Blue	Gold	Both
Barry University	Red	Silver	Both
Baylor University	Slate	Gold	None
Binghamton, State University of New York at	Green	Gold	None
Boston College	Maroon	Gold	Both
Boston University	Scarlet	Red	Both
Bowling Green State University	Brown	Orange	Both
Brown University	Seal Brown	Cardinal Red	Both
Carnegie Mellon University	Dark Grey	Plaid ¹⁴	None
Case Western Reserve University	Royal Blue	Grey	Both
Chestnut Hill College	Maroon	Gold	Both
Chicago, University of	Maroon	None	None
Cincinnati, University of	Red	Red	None
Claremont Graduate University	Red	White	Both
Clark University	Blue	None	Both
Colorado, University of	Gold	White	None
Columbia University	Columbia Blue	Blue	Both
Connecticut, University of	Navy Blue	White	Both
Cornell University	Carnelian Red	None	Left
Dartmouth College	Forest Green	None	Both

¹³ Northwestern University, 'News', <<http://www.nupoc.northwestern.edu/news-publications/news/index.html>>, last modified 2011 (accessed 7 Jan. 2013).

¹⁴ In addition to its use on the doctoral gowns, Carnegie Mellon University makes use of the Carnegie family tartan used by industrialist Andrew Carnegie as a lining for all of its academic hoods.

[c3] Coloured gowns, continued

Institution	Gown	Piping	Seal(s)
Delaware, University of	Royal Blue	Gold	None
Dowling College	Royal Blue	Gold	Both
Drew University	Midnight Blue	Kelly Green	Both
Duke University	Royal Blue	None	Both
Florida Atlantic University	Brown	Red	Both
Florida International University	Blue	Gold	Both
Florida State University	Red	Gold	Both
Florida, University of	Blue	Orange	Both
Fordham University	Maroon	Gold	Both
Garret Evangelical Theological Seminary	Purple	None	Left
George Washington University, The	Navy Blue	White	None
Georgia Institute of Technology	Gold	White	Both
Georgia State University	Blue	None	Both
Graduate Theological Union	Red	None	None
Hamline University	Wine	Grey	None
Harvard University	Crimson	None	Both
Hartford, University of	Red	White	Both
Hebrew Union College	Dark Blue	Gold	Both
Idaho, University of	Pale Grey	None	Both
Immaculata University	Admiral Blue	Light Blue	Right
Indiana State University	Blue	White	Both
Iowa State University	Maroon	Red	Both
Jewish Theological Seminary	Red	None	Both
James Madison University	Blue	Gold	None
Johns Hopkins University	Gold	None	None
Kennesaw State University	Gold	None	Both
Kentucky, University of	Blue	None	Both
LaVerne, University of	Green	Orange	None
Lehigh University	Brown	White	Both
Lutheran School of Theology ¹⁵	Light Grey	None	Left
Lutheran School of Theology	Royal Blue	None	Left
Madonna University	Royal Blue	Gold	None
Maine, University of	Purple	White	Both
Mary Hardin-Baylor, University of	Navy Blue	Gold	None
Maryland (College Park), University of	Red	Yellow	Both
Massachusetts (Amherst), University of	Red	White	None
Massachusetts (Lowell), University of	Blue	None	None
Miami, University of	Dark Green	Orange	Both
Michigan State University	Green	None	None
Michigan, University of	Blue	Maize	None
Minnesota, University of	Maroon	Silver	None
Montclair State University	Red	None	Left
New York University	Violet	White	Both
North Carolina (Greensboro), University of	Blue	Gold	Both
North Carolina State University	Red	White	Both

¹⁵ The first description is for doctoral degrees in ministry. The second is for doctors of philosophy.

[c3] Coloured gowns, continued

Institution	Gown	Piping	Seal(s)
North Carolina (Wilmington), University of	Forest Green	Gold	None
Northeastern University	Maroon	Gold	Both
Northwestern University	Purple	None	Both
Notre Dame, University of	Blue	Gold	Both
Pennsylvania, University of	Red/Blue ¹⁶	Blue	None
Providence College	White ¹⁷	Gold	Both
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Red	White	Both
Rhode Island, University of	Blue	Gold	None
Rush University	Forest Green	Gold	Left
Rutgers University	Scarlet	Gold	Both
Saint John's University	Scarlet	White	Both
Saint Louis University	Blue	Gold	Both
South Carolina, University of	Garnet	None	Both
Southern Mississippi, University of	Yellow	White	Both
South Florida University	Green	Gold	None
Temple University	Red	None	None
Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University	Maroon	None	None
Texas A & M University (Kingsville)	Blue	Gold	None
Texas Christian University	Purple	Purple	Left
Toledo, University of	Blue	Gold	None
Touro University	Blue	None	Both
Troy University	Maroon	White	Both
Union Theological Seminary	Black/Red ¹⁸	None	None
Villanova University	Blue	None	None
Virginia Polytechnic Institute	Blue	Orange	Both
Virginia, University of	Blue	Orange	Both
Washington University in St. Louis	Green	None	None
Wayne State University	Green	Gold	None
Widener University	Sky Blue	Gold	Both
William and Mary, College of ¹⁹	Green	Blue	Both
Wisconsin (Milwaukee), University of	Gold	White	Both
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Maroon	None	Both
Yale University	Blue	None	None

¹⁶ At the University of Pennsylvania, the doctoral robes are red with blue cuffs.

¹⁷ This is the only white doctoral robe currently prescribed by an American institution. As Providence College awards doctoral degrees only *honoris causa* to a handful of eminent individuals annually, it is very rare to see such a robe in use.

¹⁸ This robe's body is black while the yoke and sleeves are red. For a full description of the process of making it, see Kenneth Crawford, 'On the Making of the American Doctoral Gown', *TBS*, 9 (2009), pp. 175–82.

¹⁹ Although the ICC allows for doctoral robes to be worn open or closed, the standard practice in the United States is for them to be worn closed. At the College of William and Mary, they are almost invariably worn open and there is no hood assigned to doctors.

[c4] Coloured gowns and trim

The final group of robes at the doctoral level that still retain the standard ICC shape are those that have altered the colours of both the gown and the velvet facings and sleeve bars. This allows colleges and universities the most opportunity to be distinctive while still maintaining some connection to the original ICC guidelines. For example, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Fig. 5)²⁰ is able to maintain the standard ICC shape with a silver grey robe and cardinal red facings and sleeve bars. Schools such as the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa are able to squeeze four different colours onto their doctoral robes with the robe, facings, sleeve bars, and piping all of different shades. As in the previous examples, the velvet facings and sleeve bars of these robes are still often bordered by piping of a contrasting colour. Again, the last column of the chart refers to the custom of placing some university symbol at the top of the facing for doctoral robes. In the proposed classification scheme, these deviations would be listed as [c4] along with the colours of the robe and the trim. Thus, American University would be [c4] Royal Blue and Red.

[c4] Coloured gowns and trim

Institution	Gown	Facings/bars	Piping	Seals
Alabama (Huntsville), University of	Blue	Blue	White	Both
American University	Royal Blue	Red	White	Left
Arizona State University	Dark Blue	Maroon	Gold	None
Azusa Pacific University	Grey	Red	Gold	None
Binghamton, State University of New York at	Blue	Blue	Gold	Both
California, University of	Navy Blue	Royal Blue	Gold	None
Clemson University	Blue	Blue	Orange	Both
Cornerstone University	Blue	Navy Blue	Gold	Both
DePaul University	Royal Blue	Red	None	Both
Drexel University	Blue	Navy Blue	Gold	Both
Duquesne University	Royal Blue	Red	White	Left
Emory University	Blue	Yellow/Black	None	Both
Farleigh Dickinson University	Maroon	Sky Blue	White	None
George Mason University	Green	Green	Yellow	None
Hawai'i (Mānoa), University of	Green	Black/White	Gold	None
Illinois (Chicago), University of	Flame Red	Indigo	None	None
Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), University of	Admiral Blue	Blue	Orange	Left
Indiana University	Red	Red	White	Left
Julliard School, The	Navy Blue	Red	White	None
Louisiana State University	Blue	Navy Blue	Gold	Both
Loyola Marymount University	Maroon	Cardinal Red	Gold	Both
Loyola University Chicago	Red	Maroon	Gold	Both
Maryland (University College), University of	Blue	Blue	Gold	Both
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Silver Grey	Cardinal Red	White	None
Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, University of	Maroon	Yellow	Black	Both
Nevada (Las Vegas), University of	Grey	Red	Grey	Both
New Mexico, University of	Grey	Red	White	Left
New York, City University of	Blue	Blue	None	Both

²⁰ Angela Zalucha, 'MIT Phd Hooding ceremony and graduation, June 3 and 4, 2010', <http://www.boulder.swri.edu/~angela/MIT_graduation/MIT_graduation.html> (accessed 8 Jan. 2013 but no longer on this site).

[c4] Coloured gowns and trim, continued

Institution	Gown	Facings/Bars	Piping	Seals
New York, State University of	Blue	Blue	Gold	Both
North Carolina (Chapel Hill), University of	Sky Blue	Navy Blue	White	Both
Northern Colorado, University of	Navy Blue	Navy Blue	Gold	None
Nova Southeastern University	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Gold	Both
Ohio State University, The	Scarlet	Grey	Black	Both
Pennsylvania State University	Navy Blue	Royal Blue	Gold	Both
Pittsburgh University	Blue	Blue	White	None
Prescott University	Green	Maroon	White	Both
Princeton Theological Seminary	Blue	Black/Red	None	None
Regent University	Blue	Blue	Gold	Both
Rice University	Blue	Sky Blue	None	Both
Rochester, University of	Royal Blue	Black/Gold	None	Left
Rowan University	Brown	Brown	Gold	Both
Saint Elizabeth, College of	Midnight Blue	Navy Blue	Gold	None
Saint Louis University	Royal Blue	Royal Blue	White	Both
Seton Hall University	Royal Blue	Royal Blue	White	None
Southern California, University of	Cardinal Red	Cardinal Red	Gold	Both
Southern Methodist University	Admiral Blue	Red	Gold	Both
Stevens Institute of Technology	Red	Grey	Silver	Left
Texas (Austin), University of	Red	Maroon	Gold	Both
Texas (Dallas), University of	Black/Green ²¹	Orange	None	None
Tulane University	Hunter Green	Light Blue	White	Both
Washington, University of	Purple	Blue	White	None
West Virginia, University of	Midnight Blue	Royal Blue	Gold	Left
Wyoming, University of	Brown	Gold	White	Left

[c5–8] Unique Doctoral Robes

As mentioned in the introduction, there are a few American institutions that have adopted unique academic dress for their doctoral degree-holders. This process began with Princeton University in 1960 and has continued through to 2011 with the introduction of a hybrid design at the Rochester Institute of Technology. In most of these examples, there is still reference made to traditional models of European academic dress, but one adds some entirely new elements.

Princeton University allows its doctoral graduates to wear one of three robes. The first is the standard ICC robe in black. One option—which is designated ‘Princeton Doctor #2’ by the University and its robe makers—makes an addition of orange facings and sleeve bars. This is a relatively recent innovation compared to the unique academic dress that Princeton unveiled in 1960.²² The academic dress known as ‘Princeton Doctor #1’ was devised partly to increase the colour at university ceremonies and partly to reduce the financial burden on departing students. The velvet was removed from the robe and replaced with faille orange facings and sleeve bars. The sleeves were shortened and an orange lining was added and the

²¹ The robes of the University of Texas (Dallas) are black with green cuffs.

²² A full description of Princeton’s history of academic dress can be found in found in Drake-man.



FIGS 7 AND 8 [c7] SUNY Stony Brook's doctors may choose red or blue. The gowns sport vertical sleeve rays instead of perpendicular horizontal bars, and a cape.



FIG. 9 [c6] Vanderbilt PhD's (left and right) with their dissertation advisor (centre) whose PhD is from the [c7] State University of New York at Stony Brook.



LEFT: FIG. 10 [c8] Rochester Institute of Technology PhD with pointed sleeves.



RIGHT: FIG. 11 [c3] The Yale doctoral robe is also used for several master's degrees.

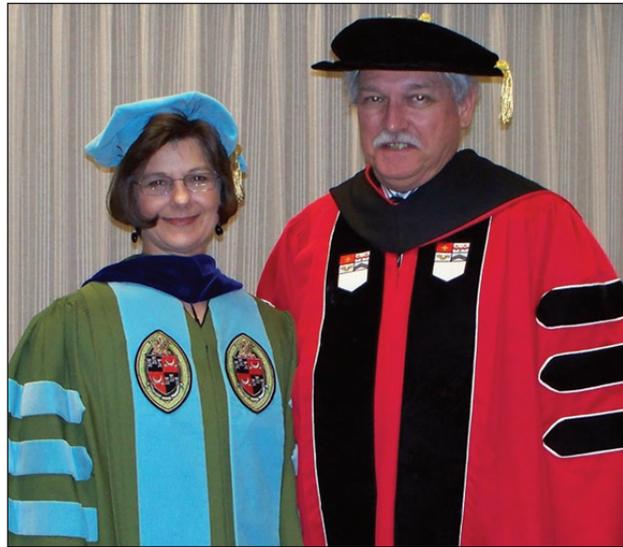


FIG. 12 Two colleagues at a U.S. commencement ceremony wear the doctoral academic dress of [c4] Tulane University and [c3] Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

gown was designed to be worn open. All of this led to a robe that was distinctive but was definitely recognizable as traditional academic dress. In the proposed classification scheme, these deviations would be described as [c5] Princeton.

Like Princeton, Stanford University has adopted a doctoral robe that departs from the ICC model while still retaining allusions to existing academic dress.²³ The Stanford robe was designed by Cambridge-educated chemistry professor Eric Hutchinson.²⁴ The new dress—not surprisingly—was a modified version of the Cambridge doctors [d1] robe (Fig. 6).²⁵ The side panels of the body of the gown as used today are cardinal red with black facings and a black yoke. The sleeves are black, with the cuffs covered in red and are also lined with satin of a colour indicating the scholarly discipline of the wearer—following the standard colourings of the ICC. At the top of the facings is a coat of arms blazoned Or a Saltire Gules a Chief Argent. Unlike most American academic dress, this gown is made to be worn open. This scheme of academic dress has been in place since its introduction in 1977. In the proposed classification scheme, this robe is described as [c6] Stanford.

In 2003, the State University of New York at Stony Brook adopted a new set of doctoral robes that were further removed from customary academic dress.²⁶ The form of the robes is not extreme, but the ornamentation is different from the standard ICC doctoral robe (Figs 7 and 8).²⁷ Rather than sleeve bars, the Stony Brook robe has three gold rays extending from the bottom of the sleeve and coming to a point at the shoulder. On the right shoulder is a small representation of the university's seal. These rays are attached to the sleeve at the wrist and the shoulder, but remain unattached for the rest of the arm's length. The robe was designed by a member of the University's art department who felt that Stony Brook's doctoral dress needed more colour. Rather than follow the existing ICC scheme, a new design was created. The robes were originally designed in blue cloth with yellow trim. Shortly after their introduction, these were replaced with red robes. The students felt that these were too bright, so the university returned to its original blue. Though the red robes were used only for a short time, they are still available for purchase at the university and on the Herff Jones website.²⁸ Stony Brook has also adopted a unique hood that does not have a cowl similar to those introduced at Columbia in 1963.²⁹ In the proposed classification scheme, Stony Brook University's doctoral robes would be described as [c7] Stony Brook.

Vanderbilt University has followed Stanford's example in adopting a new robe for its doctors of philosophy. It is also based on the Cambridge doctors' [d1] robe (Fig. 9).³⁰ The

23 Boven, 'American Universities' Departures', pp. 166–68.

24 Andy Doty, 'Hutchinson's Heraldry: Bringing Colour to Commencement', *Sandstone & Tile*, 20, nos. 2/3 (1996), pp. 3–9 (p. 8).

25 Barbara Palmer, 'Cardinal Chronicle/weekly campus column' <<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2003/june18/column-618.html>>, last modified 11 June 2003 (accessed 5 July 2013). This image has been cropped to show only the Stanford University doctoral gown. The gown is lined dark blue to represent philosophy.

26 Personal correspondence with Joyce Goode, Director of Apparel Products and Services at Herff Jones, 7 Feb. 2013.

27 These images are used by permission of Goode.

28 Personal correspondence with Goode, 7 Feb. 2013.

29 Image is used by permission of Goode. For more on these hoods without cowls used at Columbia, see Wolgast, 'King's Crowns', p. 122.

30 This image, courtesy of Saad A. Hasan, shows two newly minted Vanderbilt doctors with

side panels of the robe are black with gold facings. The yoke is also black, but the rest of the robe's back is gold. As at Stanford, the sleeves are lined with satin of a colour indicating the scholarly discipline of the wearer. Just above the left facing is a university logo in gold. Unlike Stanford's doctoral robe, the Vanderbilt PhD robe includes a zipper closure and is not meant to be worn open. This scheme of academic dress was introduced in 2005, but is reserved for PhD graduates.³¹ All other doctoral graduates use the standard ICC doctor's robe. Unlike Stanford, Vanderbilt uses the standard ICC doctor's hood with both robes.

Two other universities have recently adopted a new shape for their doctoral robes that merges some characteristics of the traditional ICC robe and the Stanford-style robe based on Cambridge academic dress. In 2011, the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) introduced its robe which looks very much like the standard ICC robe with the addition of pointed sleeves (Fig. 10).³² In RIT's case, the robes are brown and maintain brown velvet facings and sleeve bars. They are worn closed and have long pointed sleeves similar to the Cambridge doctor's [d1] robe. At least one other institution has modelled its doctoral dress on the RIT robe. The unaccredited Bircham International University uses robes of the same style using red cloth rather than brown. Both of these universities adopted their academic dress with the assistance of Oak Hall Industries—a dominant corporation in American academic dress.³³ In the proposed American classification scheme, this shape is classified as [c8] RIT.

Master's Degree Academic Dress

There is much less diversity in the realm of academic dress at the master's degree level in the United States. With only a couple of exceptions, American institutions use the ICC standard black gown based on Oxford University masters' dress. If changes are made, they are generally made in the colour of the gowns. In a few cases, piping of a contrasting colour has been added to the yoke of the gown. These differences are listed in the chart below. Many institutions will also add symbols to the facings of these gowns—as in doctoral dress. These are coats of arms, university seals, or some other logo associated with the school. In addition, two institutions have adopted slightly altered shapes for their masters. The University of Findlay dresses masters in bell sleeves that look very similar to ICC bachelor's gowns. On these gowns, two one-inch wide orange strips are placed around sleeve just above wrist.³⁴ At the Metropolitan State University of Denver, the blue master's degree gowns are produced in the bachelor's shape as well. As one final difference among master's degree graduates in the United States, at Yale University, LLM, STM, MArch, MDiv, MFA, and MMA graduates all wear Yale's doctoral robes rather than traditional master's gowns (Fig. 11).³⁵ As men-

their adviser, who is wearing his academic dress from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

31 Personal correspondence with Goode, 10 Oct. 2009.

32 Rochester Institute of Technology, 'RIT—Graduate Studies in Astrophysics and Technology' <<http://www.rit.edu/cos/astrophysics/1stPhD.html>>, last modified 20 May 2011 (accessed 8 Jan. 2013).

33 Personal communication with Customer Service Department at Oak Hall Industries, 20 Dec. 2012.

34 University of Findlay, 'The University of Findlay—Regalia Information', <<http://www.findlay.edu/offices/resources/universitystores/Regalia+Information.htm>> (accessed 25 May 2009 but no longer available).

35 Yale University, 'A Guide to Yale University Academic Regalia' <http://www.yale.edu/commencement/html/Guide_to_Regalia_07.pdf>, last modified 2007 (accessed 7 Jan. 2013).

tioned earlier, because there is such a relatively small amount of deviation in master's and bachelor's academic dress, no classification system has been devised for these.

Institution	Masters' gowns	
	Colour	Yoke piping
American University	Royal Blue	White
Boston University	Scarlet	None
Catholic University of America	Black	Gold
Columbia University	Columbia Blue	Light Blue
DePaul University	Royal Blue	None
George Mason University	Green	None
Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), University of	Admiral Blue	Orange
Indiana University	Black	Cardinal Red
James Madison University	Blue	None
Lehigh University	Brown	White
Metropolitan State University of Denver	Blue	Red
New York University	Violet	None
Northwestern University	Purple	Black
Rosalind Franklin University	Black	White
Rush University	Forest Green	Gold
Southern Methodist University	Admiral Blue	Red
Saint John's University	Scarlet	None
Wyoming, University of	Brown	Gold
Yale University	Blue	None

Bachelor's degree academic dress

At the level of bachelors, there is even less variation. Indeed, very few institutions even use hoods at this level—though they are recommended by the ICC. The institutions listed here make use of coloured gowns in the standard ICC bachelor's degree shape. As in the master's degree gowns, a few have added coloured piping around the yoke of the gown. In addition to these simple colour changes, the University of Findlay has produced a unique gown at the bachelor level. It is similar to that described above for masters, but has only one strip of orange around the wrist. The University of the South—often called Sewanee after the Tennessee town where it is located—seems to use bachelor's gowns that are worn open. One notable addition to many bachelor's degree robes recently introduced in the United States is the so-called stole of gratitude. These are 'to be kept by the new graduate after the robe is returned, and traditionally presented to an individual who had a profound influence on his or her education.'³⁶ They seem to have been devised by academic dress companies to take the place of the hood which is rarely seen at the bachelor's level in America. In other instances, universities will allow students to wear stoles that represent activities as varied as time spent studying abroad and membership in fraternities and sororities.³⁷

³⁶ Kathleen Tibbets, 'SMU debuts new regalia during Commencement 2009', *SMU Forum for Faculty and Staff* (blog), 5 May 2009, <<http://blog.smu.edu/forum/2009/05/05/smu-debuts-new-regalia-during-commencement-2009/>>.

³⁷ As an example of the 'sash' reserved for those who have studied abroad or international students see 'Study Abroad Sash', <http://www.lmu.edu/academics/Study_Abroad/Returned_Students/studyabroadsash.htm>, last modified March 2013 (accessed 8 June 2013).

Institution	Bachelors' gowns	
	Gown Colour	Yoke piping
American University	Royal Blue	None
Boston University	Scarlet	None
Columbia University	Columbia Blue	None
DePaul University	Royal Blue	None
George Mason University	Green	None
Illinois, University of	Admiral Blue	None
Indiana University	Black	Cardinal Red
James Madison University	Blue	White
Lehigh University	Brown	None
Loyola University Chicago	Maroon	None
New York University	Violet	White
North Carolina, University of	Light Blue	White (and white facings)
Northwestern University	Purple	Black
Southern Methodist University	Admiral Blue	None
Wyoming, University of	Brown	Gold

Conclusions

The Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume was written in the late nineteenth century to codify the robes and hoods used in the United States. There have been a number of reasons proposed for why the Code was put into place. Some claimed that it allowed individuals to be subsumed into the larger population of scholars on an equal footing; others thought it would mean less of a financial commitment for graduates who could not afford evening dress. Whatever the reason, its guidelines have been flouted almost since the beginning.³⁸

The most rampant violations of the ICC and its successors occur at the doctoral level. This may simply be because those who have reached the pinnacle of academic achievement in the United States want to distinguish themselves from others. At Southern Methodist University in Dallas, the former chief marshal noted that their 2008 adoption of coloured academic dress was part of a national trend. He thought that their [c4] Admiral Blue and Red robe was the perfect addition to Southern Methodist University's commencement ceremonies, noting that 'this seemed to be a sort of culminating act. It would highlight the particular brand of SMU, it would be beautiful, and it would be very localized and non-generic, yet elegant.'³⁹

It is notable that the deviations from the ICC have become greater and greater as the decades have passed. In 1938, Yale University was a trend-setter when it adopted its blue doctoral robes. This was followed in the 1960s and 1970s by Princeton's and Stanford's robes which were completely different shapes from that prescribed by the Code. In the first decade of this century, even more institutions have begun differentiating themselves from the rest with two new shapes being introduced for robes.

If this trend of differentiation continues, the academic dress of the United States will certainly become more colourful (Fig. 12).⁴⁰ It may also become easier to distinguish the

³⁸ Wolgast, 'Timeline', p. 216.

³⁹ Tibbets, *SMU Forum for Faculty and Staff*.

⁴⁰ Pairings such as this of Tulane University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute graduates provide colour to American academic ceremonies that was not envisioned by those who originally crafted the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume.

academic dress of various universities. The ICC envisioned these distinctions being made through the lining of hoods, but that long ago proved to be impossible as more and more institutions adopted similar lining patterns. In that case, further differentiation will be a welcome change in American academic dress. For academic dress scholars, it will simply require more and more cataloging and classifying to keep everything straight.

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Appendix

As mentioned in the body of the paper, many universities use symbols at the top of the facings on their doctoral robes in order to individualize them further. These embroidered designs are invariably used on robes that have been altered in colour or shape. I have found no examples of robes in the standard ICC shape and colour that use these symbols. In most cases, these designs consist of the university's coat of arms or the official university seal—which often contains an image of the coat of arms. As these are official university symbols that are very rarely changed, I have not given further description of them here. Other universities use logos, state symbols, or designs with letters and dates on their robes. These are listed below for reference.

American University	University logo	Both facings
Columbia University	Blue crown	Both facings
University of Connecticut	Thistle logo	Both facings
Emory University	Horn and torch logo	Both facings
Harvard University	Crow's feet emblem	Both facings
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	University logo	Both facings
University of Kentucky	University logo	Both facings
Lutheran School of Theology	Gold cross	Left facing
University of Maryland, College Park	Red and gold crosses	Both facings
University of Miami	University logo	Both facings
University of New Mexico	White emblem from New Mexico state flag	Left facing
City University of New York	University logo	Both facings
New York University	University logo	Both facings
Nova Southeastern University	University logo	Both facings
Pennsylvania State University	Nittany lion logo	Both facings
Rice University	Owl	Both facings
Rutgers University	Logo incorporating foundation date	Both facings
Saint Louis University	University seal	Right facing
	University logo	Left facing
University of Southern California	University torch logo	Both facings
Southern Methodist University	University logo	Both facings
Stanford University	Unknown coat of arms	Above both facings
Touro University	University 'T' logo	Both facings
Vanderbilt University	University logo	Above left facing
College of William and Mary	'W' and 'M' cypher	Both facings