

Black Hawk College
Quad-Cities Campus

2020

Commencement



On Academic Regalia

On at least one solemn occasion during the academic calendar – Spring Commencement – the faculty of the college publicly display their full academic regalia and participate in the ritual of a processional and recessional from the commencement ceremony. The purposes of commencement are well-known, but the reasons for the peculiar dress of the celebrants and the order of the procession are often as confusing to the audience as they are, in fact, to the faculty. This note may help to explain academic costumes.

Today's academics are descendants of clerical schoolmen in the universities of medieval Europe. Like clergy, members of the bench and bar, and other learned professionals, the medieval scholar clothed himself in heavy robes to keep out the draft from unheated, windowless buildings. Like all members of medieval society, faculty enjoyed the visible symbols of their rank. These outward signs of accomplishment and authority were tailored into the robes. The need for such voluminous garments to keep the scholar from catching a cold is long past but the use of them to symbolize the dignity of the profession remains.

Caps and gowns worn by our faculty are black. Black was the color adopted by mutual agreement among American colleges and universities at the end of the 19th century. In Europe, each university has its own distinctive gowns, varying in color and cut with each institution. A European commencement is a far more colorful occasion than its American counterpart.

There are four basic academic degrees: the associate degree, the baccalaureate or bachelor's degree, the master's degree and the doctorate. Each has a special robe. The associate and bachelor's gowns are trim, neat and unadorned, as befits apprentices. The master's gown is still simple, but fuller, with a hood draped from the shoulders down the back. Once used to keep the shaved heads of medieval clerks from freezing, the hood now is solely a badge of degree of scholarly achievement. The master's hood is small and narrow, but displays the colors of the institution that awarded the degree. The doctorate robe has a generous cut, is faced with velvet, and emblazoned with velvet stripes on the ample sleeves. Most of the velvet facings and chevrons or stripes are black, but some are other colors. According to personal taste, doctors may display the color of their doctoral degree on their sleeves and facings: for example; royal blue for philosophy, green for medicine, purple for law, scarlet for theology. The doctor's hood is lined in satin with the colors of the degree itself. All academic costumes include the square cap called a mortarboard. The doctor's tassels may be either black or gold. Tassels of all other degrees may be black or the colors of the college or department from which the student graduated or is graduating.

Members of the Black Hawk College Board of Trustees wear black, gold and red hoods. Their hoods do not represent academic rank; they indicate the trustees' public service through their governance of the local college district. The three colors represent an integration of the colors of the college's Quad-Cities Campus and East Campus.

A Letter from the President

Greetings, Black Hawk College Class of 2020. Congratulations to you, your families and anyone who supported you along the way. Right now, you are celebrating in a socially safe way but I hope that you still take the opportunity to truly embrace what you have accomplished. Someday, you will look back at this moment and be able to tell people about the time your college did a “virtual” commencement.

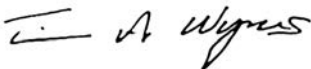
As you are graduating and leaving Black Hawk College, so are two of our long-time and beloved members of our faculty. Professors Dan Hoge and Verity Whitley are retiring from the college and have been awarded professor emeritus and emerita status. Associate Professor Whitley joined the college in 1964. She taught in the English Department at the Quad-Cities Campus and for 56 years shaped student writers. She also generously supported the college’s Quad-Cities Foundation funding of scholarships and the college’s electronic library. Professor Hoge is one of the founding faculty members at the East Campus. In more than 50 years of teaching, he created generations of alumni who influence the world of livestock judging and agribusiness. His agriculture competition teams won national championships and helped put Black Hawk College East Campus on the map far outside of western Illinois. Please join me in thanking these two remarkable instructors for their contributions to the students of Black Hawk College.

“May you live in interesting times.” So goes an old saying that is considered both a blessing and a curse. You are leaving Black Hawk College at the most interesting time in recent history. But, as a BHC graduate, you have the skills and abilities to thrive in our ever-changing world. You’ve learned to adapt when the college pivoted to an online environment mid-semester. You’ve adapted to social distancing, ZOOM and off-kilter schedules. Life demanded flexibility, and you were up to the challenge.

Another phrase I have heard a lot lately is to “treat crises and opportunity as one in the same.” As a person who has survived a few crises in his life, let me suggest that you use this moment to keep your focus on the outcome you want and the many ways you can achieve the bright future you’re aiming for. Look at what you want to do, where you want to be, and how you planned to get there. Then get busy moving forward.

The philosopher Mike Tyson once said, “Everyone has a plan until they get punched.” The virus delivered a heck of a punch to everyone. But you leave Black Hawk College prepared to take the hit and deal with what’s next. Work hard, think clearly and stay focused on what you want to achieve. Then, we will all come out of this stronger, better, together.

Good luck Class of 2020 and remember, “Let’s be careful out there.”



President, Black Hawk College



The Black Hawk College Seal

The official college seal was adopted in May 1969. It incorporates some of the oldest symbols known. The “Y,” or fork, is a key sign symbolizing the up reaching spirit, the striving of being. Above the key sign is the flame which represents knowledge, specifically the knowledge of liberal arts and sciences programs. The old chemical sign at right is for basic metals, which represents vocational and technical education. On the left is the philosopher’s sign which describes the nature of human intellect and symbolizes the active intellect present in adults who continue their education. The enclosing circle represents the continuing circle of education. The Latin phrase, Collegium Pro Populo, identifies Black Hawk as the College for the People.

Graduation Honors

Summa Cum Laude graduates have 60 hours at Black Hawk College and a 3.95 GPA or higher.

Magna Cum Laude graduates have 45 hours at Black Hawk College and a 3.85 GPA or higher.

Cum Laude graduates have 30 hours at Black Hawk College and a 3.75 GPA or higher.

Honors Regalia

- Phi Theta Kappa, Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges
Phi Theta Kappa graduates may be identified by a gold stole.
- Alpha Beta Gamma, International Business Honor Society
Alpha Beta Gamma graduates may be identified by a blue stole with Greek letters or a blue stole with emblem and Greek letters.
- ▲ Psi Beta, National Honor Society in Psychology for Community and Junior Colleges
Psi Beta graduates may be identified by a blue and gold cord.
- ❖ Sigma Kappa Delta, the English Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges
Sigma Kappa Delta graduates may be identified by a green and gold cord.
- ✘ Military Service
Military service members honorably discharged or currently serving may be identified by a red, white and blue honor cord.
- NJCAA Student-Athlete All-Academic First Team
4.0 GPA
- ⚖ NJCAA Student-Athlete All-Academic Second Team
3.80-3.99 GPA
- ★ NJCAA Student-Athlete All-Academic Third Team
3.60-3.79 GPA

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Taylor Rae Stock, Lynn Center

ART TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE

Lane Frank Haskins, East Moline

ASSISTANT TEACHER

CERTIFICATE

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Melissa Nieves, Laredo, TX

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 Maria Gonzalez, East Moline

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 LaTonya S. Johnson, Rock Island
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- Kaitlyn A. Pedersen, Geneseo
- Amber Nicole Rich, Wyandot
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- Hessouwe Yeleneke, Moline

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- Caleb J. Franck, Cambridge
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- Tyler D. Rossa, Moline
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- Haley C. Schafer, Moline

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- Catherine M. Farrell, LeClaire, IA
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- Kristopher Paul Keuning, Rock Island
- Jessica R. Murray, Milan
- Katelyn P. Powell, Colona
- Eric Richard Sanders, Princeton
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- ❖ Katelyn Marie Atkinson, Coal Valley
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- Ibearth Garza, Carbon Cliff
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- Chase Elliott Gelaude, Moline
- Jason M. Gibbs, La Fayette
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| • Jenna Katherine Vestal, Milan | |

Black Hawk College

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