The history of academic regalia extends from the earliest days of the oldest universities. The continued use of gowns, hoods and trenchers preserves the ongoing link with the values and traditions of learning and teaching in earlier times. Knowledge for the present builds on the learning of the past.

Institutions of learning show great diversity in their specifications of academic dress. The academic dress of Avondale is a gown of black cloth, as worn by graduates of the University of Cambridge, with a full black hood lined with the following colours specific to a faculty of discipline.

As a graduand, you are required to wear the full academic dress (gown, trencher cap and hood or stole) appropriate to your degree or diploma at your graduation ceremony. Consider the colour of your hood when choosing the clothing you will wear to avoid a clash, especially as you will be taking numerous pictures for posterity.

**Academic gown, hood and trencher is worn over professional attire as outlined below:**

Please wear smart, neat or professional attire as a minimum dress standard. Shorts, jeans, t-shirts, thongs, bare feet or joggers are not considered appropriate. The gown is quite heavy so we do recommend that men remove their suit jacket prior to being robed.

**Ladies:** Do not wear stiletto-heeled shoes as they damage the timber-sprung floor.

**Cultural:** Tupenu and Ta'ovala Tongan, Sulu Fiji, Lava Lava Papua New Guinea/Samoa may be worn with buckle up sandals, shirt and tie.

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**The Gown**

is worn loosely – pull down at front especially following sitting

**The Hood**

is worn loosely on the back, so as to fall like a scarf – *not a shawl.*

Place the hood over your head with the satin side up and small tapered end in front. For correct positioning the seams of the square or rectangle section should be placed against your spine – they should not be visible.

Arrange to show the satin lines for the degree. Pin the hood under the fold and anchor to your shoulder with dressmaker pins so it doesn’t slip off.

The neckband to the hood passes below the tie (men) and should be fastened to your shirt button; OR it may be fastened with a pin or brooch with low-neck dress styles. Fasten at mid upper chest level.

**The Stole**

for certificate & diploma graduands

The stole falls from the back of the neck, down the chest with equal lengths down each side.

**The Trencher (Cap)**

The square top of the trencher is worn horizontally. The short peak sits to the front on your forehead. The tassel hangs sits on the right until you have LEFT College. (Grad Sunday).

Style your hair in a manner that will allow the cap to sit level on your head. (ponytail or buns won’t work).

**Protocol for more than one degree**

If a person has more than one degree, the dress of the senior degree is worn. If two or more degrees are held of the same seniority, it is customary though not mandatory to wear the hood of the degree of the earliest establishment.
At a Graduation ceremony it is correct for a person on whom an award is being conferred to wear the academic dress of that award even if he or she is entitled to wear the dress of a more senior award.

It is not correct to wear more than one hood or stole simultaneously.

Warning

Graduation regalia follows an established tradition for each discipline and represents the College’s academic standards.

*It may not be augmented by other cultural or decorative items* until after the service.