

## **Graduation Stole Policy – 2025**

In 2025, Waynesburg University will begin recognizing excellence in competitive extracurricular and co-curricular activities by allowing eligible students to wear stoles as part of their regalia during Commencement. Academic honors will continue to be recognized with cords, and the process for awarding cords will remain unchanged.

### **Regalia Guidelines:**

- Each stole will be embordered with the name of the group
- Only stoles purchased as part of a student's official regalia through The Nest may be worn during the ceremony.
- Students may only wear one stole during the Commencement Ceremony.
- Students who are eligible for multiple stoles must select one to wear and notify their organization's advisors of their decision by the specified deadline each year.

### **Definitions:**

- **Competitive Extracurricular Activities:** Non-academic programs or activities where membership is determined through a competitive selection process.
- **Competitive Co-curricular Activities:** Programs where membership is determined through a competitive process that may involve an academic component but are primarily non-academic.

### **Criteria for determination of eligible groups:**

- Membership to the group is governed by some type of competitive process: (ex: tryout, audition, competitive application, or interview)
- The group must be officially recognized by Waynesburg University

### **Application Process:**

- The faculty/staff advisor for each group (Athletics is considered one group) will submit a request here: [Organization Application to be approved for a Graduation Stole](#)
- The application requires that the organization provides the following information:
  - The competitive process by which its members are selected, and
  - The criteria the organization will use to determine excellence meriting a stole. The criteria should include being a member in good standing, years in the organization, GPA, and any other criteria important to the group. Each group will establish the specific criteria standards for excellence appropriate for that group.
- The Provost or his/her designee will review the applications and notify the group of the decision.
- Once a group has been authorized to issue stoles, they need not reapply unless the criteria for awarding the stoles changes.
- After approval from the Provost Office, the advisor for each approved group, will determine and notify the students who are eligible for stoles. The eligible students will notify their faculty advisor of their intent to wear the stole and the advisor will place the order with The Nest and distribute the stoles to the students. Each group is responsible

for the costs of the stoles for their students. They may choose to pay for them out of program funds or pass the cost on to the students. The Nest will invoice the organization each year for the cost of all stoles ordered.