

Escort and Hooder Policy

Graduates receiving a doctoral degree are hooded during their commencement ceremony.

In the case of research-based doctoral degree recipients (those who earn a Ph.D. or Ed.D.), graduates have a faculty escort, sometimes two, who accompany them onto the platform and hood them, along with the assigned “hooding marshal” already on the platform. The faculty escort and hooder is a member of the graduate faculty of the graduate’s program, typically the graduate’s faculty advisor or a member of the graduate’s doctoral committee.

In the case of non-research based doctoral degree recipients (those who earn an Au.D., D.B.A., D.N.P., D.P.M., D.P.T., or Pharm.D.), graduates are hooded by one, sometimes two, faculty member(s) from their program. This program’s faculty hooder(s) will hood all of the graduates earning that particular degree, assisted by the “hooding marshal” already on the platform as needed.

An individual not connected to the graduate’s academic program or doctoral committee who requests to escort and/or hood a graduate must meet the following criteria:

1. The individual requesting to serve as the escort and/or hooder must have a doctoral degree.
2. The individual requesting to serve as the escort and/or hooder must be affiliated with the University of Florida as a current or retired faculty member.
3. The individual requesting to serve as the escort and/or hooder must obtain permission from the graduate involved.
4. For hooding research degree graduates, the individual requesting to serve as the escort and/or hooder must obtain permission from the faculty advisor of the graduate involved. For hooding professional degree graduates, the individual requesting to serve as the hooder must obtain permission from the program director.

In the event that permission is granted for an individual not connected to the graduate’s academic program or doctoral committee to escort and/or hood the graduate, the following must be understood:

1. This escort and hooder will not have his or her name listed in the printed program, rather the name shown will be the faculty advisor for the student (applicable only for Ph.D. and Ed.D. recipients).
2. This escort and/or hooder must wear appropriate regalia during the ceremony; if the individual does not own regalia, it can be rented through the UF bookstore.