

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT COMMENCEMENT

SCHOLASTIC HONORS

Students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher are eligible for graduation with scholastic honors (sometimes known as Latin honors because of the Latin phrases used to denote the level of achievement). Recipients of this recognition wear gold cords. The honors designations are:

<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> (with highest praise)	3.90-4.00
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i> (with high praise)	3.70-3.89
<i>Cum Laude</i> (with praise)	3.50-3.69

HONORS SCHOLARS

Students who have demonstrated a high level of achievement in high school may be admitted to Mount Vernon Nazarene University's honors program. Students who complete the honors curriculum are designated as Honors Scholars. Recipients of this recognition wear bronze medallions.

ALPHA CHI HONOR SOCIETY

Alpha Chi is a national honor society committed to promoting excellence in undergraduate educational achievement as well as in professional life. Faculty elect juniors and seniors who have achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.85. Alpha Chi members wear blue and green honor cords.

PHI DELTA LAMBDA HONOR SOCIETY

Graduates of the colleges and universities of the Church of the Nazarene are eligible for election into the international honor society of the Church of the Nazarene, Phi Delta Lambda. The letters signify the Greek words for the love of wisdom, righteousness, and service. Up to fifteen percent of the baccalaureate degree graduates may be elected. Election is by the faculty and includes the criteria of scholarship, Christian character, and leadership ability.

NEASE SCHOLARS

The Nease Institute is an endowed University program that promotes persistence, resilience, and educational opportunity. Students who have completed the Nease Institute and demonstrated academic success are designated as Nease Scholars. Recipients of this recognition wear silver medallions.

DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS

The Diversity Leadership Scholarship Program (DLSP) is designed for MVNU AIM (Americans of color- African, Latino, Asian, and Native American, International, and Missionary) students. The program emphasizes leadership, Christian character, academic excellence, and service to others. Scholars wear a gold medallion with a black, green, and blue ribbon.

MILITARY VETERANS

We want to thank and honor all of our students who have served or are currently serving in the United States military. Veterans are wearing a red, white, and blue cord.

FACULTY MARSHALS

The University President, in consultation with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, appoints faculty to serve as symbolic leaders of academic ceremonies in the role of faculty marshals. The faculty marshals organize and lead the lines of march for the baccalaureate worship service and commencement ceremonies.

UNIVERSITY MARSHALS

The University marshals are elected officers in the Student Government Association. Robed in gray gowns, the University marshals lead the graduates through the academic ceremonies and rites of passage.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD

The Service Above Self Award recognizes those graduating seniors who have distinguished themselves in their University career through service to others. These individuals represent the highest ideal of the University motto: "To seek to learn is to seek to serve." The

students chosen are exemplary among the many qualified to receive this award. The faculty elects one male recipient and one female recipient from a list of nominees provided by the schools and the Senior Class.

ACADEMIC TRADITIONS

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The modern academic procession reflects traditions inherited from medieval universities, where a member of the teaching guild was a master, and a bachelor was an apprentice. Long robes and warm hoods protected scholars from the cold in drafty rooms and corridors. As a token of privilege and responsibility, the master wore a warmer and more distinguished costume than the bachelor, and a doctor might wear a hood lined with fur.

While this is no longer everyday apparel, it is worn on significant academic occasions to symbolize the world of scholarship. In the commencement ceremony the new bachelors are visibly received into the community of scholars, taking their place in the great traditions of academic life.

The dignity and meaning of academic costume are protected by careful regulation. In the United States, nearly all institutions adhere to a national code adopted in 1895 and revised in 1932.

THE CAP: The familiar “mortarboard” is made of black cloth with a tassel and color of the wearer’s “faculty” or discipline. Those who possess a doctoral degree may wear an eight-sided tam provided the institution granting the degree is more than 100 years old. Doctoral tassels are shorter than bachelor’s or master’s and are often gold metallic threads.

THE GOWN: The cut of the gown indicates the wearer’s degree. A bachelor wears a simple gown with pointed sleeves; a master’s gown has long, closed sleeves with a slit at the arm or wrist, and a doctor wears a very full gown with billowing bell-shaped sleeves. In addition, the doctor’s gown has velvet panels on the front and three velvet bars on each sleeve, which may be black or the color distinctive of their discipline. Presidential gowns typically include an additional velvet panel, a fourth chevron bar on the sleeve, and velvet trim above the bottom hem.

THE HOOD: The color of the velvet border signifies the discipline of the degree, while the color of the interior lining identifies the institution, normally by its school colors. The hood of a bachelor is three feet long; that of a master, three and one-half feet, and that of a doctor, four feet.

For hoods, colors representing some of the disciplines are:

Business Administration— <i>drab</i>	Ministry— <i>scarlet</i>
Education— <i>light blue</i>	Nursing— <i>apricot</i>

UNIVERSITY SEAL

The seal features three panels bearing symbols significant of university life. The Bible emphasizes the primacy of Scripture to learning. The flame captures the essence of the community of faith, the gathering of learners drawn together by the power of the Holy Spirit. The cross centrality proclaims the Lordship of Jesus in shaping Christ-likeness. The globe depicts the world to which students are released for lifelong service. The University’s founding date of 1968 and the motto “To seek to learn is to seek to serve” are engraved near the bottom of the seal.

PRESIDENTIAL LAVALIERE

The medallion on the presidential lavalier presents the seal on the front and the flame, representing the Holy Spirit, on the reverse. The chain contains links on which is engraved the line of presidential succession with the dates of service of each president.

MACE

Tracing its origin back to medieval times, the mace represents one of the oldest traditions in academia. It symbolizes the academic authority of the University: the Board of Trustees, the faculty, and the administration. The Mount Vernon Nazarene University mace bears on one side the University seal, emblematic of the responsibility for leadership of the institution, and on the other, the flame, representing the Holy Spirit who is the source of strength and guidance for that role.

SHAW BELL

The bell, originally cast in Cincinnati in about 1882, was bought by Lt. Col. Robert H. Shaw from the Brooktondale Nazarene Campground in upstate New York, transported to Mount Vernon, and donated to the University in the early 1970s. The Shaw Bell, now located in the bell tower on the central campus lawn, tolls at the conclusion of each commencement ceremony and other academic ceremonies.