What is a hooder?

A hooder is the person or persons who place the doctoral hood over the graduate’s head at Commencement.

What is a hood?

A hood is a looped piece of fabric (or cowl) with colored trim and panels that signify the degree earned and the institution from which the degree has been earned.

The hood is one of three pieces that make up a full set of academic regalia for graduating medical students at the UVM Larner College of Medicine. Full regalia also includes a robe and tam (ceremonial hat).

How and when is a medical student hooded?

At the UVM Larner College of Medicine, graduating medical students are hooded as part of the Commencement Ceremony.

As each graduate’s name is called, they ascend the stage stairs with their hood draped over their arm and take a seat on the “hooding stool.” Traditionally, Dr. Christa Zehle and Dr. Tania Bertsch will then place the hood over the graduate’s head. Once the graduate has been hooded, they will then receive their diploma and exit the stage.

Who can be a hooder?

At the UVM Larner College of Medicine Drs. Bertsch and Zehle are traditionally the hooders. However, students can choose to invite a guest hooder to assist Dr. Zehle if they so choose. Students may only invite a guest hooder who falls within one of these categories:
• Faculty of the UVM College of Medicine (including Emeriti Faculty)
• Alumni of the UVM College of Medicine
• Faculty of UVM who hold a PhD or terminal degree in their field
• PhD alumni of UVM (in any field)

How do I ask someone to be my guest hooder?

If you decide you would like a guest hooder, it is most appropriate to ask them in person or via a phone call.

When you invite someone to be your guest hooder, you should let them know that they will have to attend the Commencement Ceremony on May 19, 2019 and must be at the Ira Allen Chapel no later than 2:00 pm EST.

Your guest hooder must also wear regalia in order to participate in Commencement. If they do not have regalia, they can order some. Please find out more how faculty and guest hooders can purchase or rent regalia below.

Who do I tell if I want a guest hooder?

If you decide you would like to have a guest hooder, you must email michelle.bookless@med.uvm.edu no later than Monday, April 8 with their name, degree, title, and contact information.

I'm a guest hooder and need regalia. What should I do?

All hooders must have full regalia in order to participate in Commencement. Full regalia includes a robe, tam or mortarboard, and hood.

Faculty of the UVM Larner College of Medicine and UVM

Hooders who are faculty of the UVM Larner College of Medicine or the University of Vermont can rent regalia from the UVM Bookstore for $65 (gown, hood, mortarboard and tassel) or $90 (gown, hood, and tam).

To rent regalia, you must contact Brendan Andrews at 802-656-0989 no later than May 1, 2019. He will need your height weight, highest degree, name of the degree-granting institution, and payment information.

Alumni of the UVM Larner College of Medicine who are not faculty

Hooders who are not faculty but who are alumni of the UVM Larner College of Medicine (or, previously, the UVM College of Medicine) are unable to rent regalia but can purchase regalia through the UVM Bookstore.
To purchase regalia, you must contact Brendan Andrews at 802-656-0989 no later than May 1, 2019. He will need your height weight, highest degree, name of the degree-granting institution, and payment information.