UAlbany Commencement Ceremony Flag Bearers

Policies

The following flags will be used in May and December Commencement ceremonies:

- Ceremonial flags of the U.S., New York State, City of Albany, and University at Albany are carried by R.O.T.C. Color Guards.
- Gonfalons of the Schools and Colleges of the University as well as international flags are carried by eligible graduating students.

The following are policies students must comply with in order to be a flag bearer:

1. Flags will include those of United Nations member states, U.S. associated states and territories, sovereign partners of the U.S., and territories with National Authorities holding permanent observer status at the United Nations. Students wishing to carry flags from countries other than these will be offered the opportunity to carry another flag representing world peace and harmony, such as the flag of the United Nations, of the African Union, and the Arab League.

2. No flag will be carried unless there is a student from that country in the graduating class.

3. All flag bearers must be legitimate degree applicants in good standing with the University at Albany, as verified by the Undergraduate or Graduate Dean’s Office and the Office of Community Standards.

4. Students will be invited to carry the flag of their country based first on overall GPA. Eligible students not selected to carry their home country flag will be offered the opportunity to carry the flag of another country if a student from that country either declines or fails to respond by the specified deadlines.

5. The student must have been born in, or be a citizen of, the country whose flag s/he is carrying, unless the student has volunteered to carry another country’s flag (see #4 above).

6. Schools and Colleges will be asked to nominate gonfalon bearers. If no nomination is received, students graduating from those Schools and Colleges will be recruited or other volunteer students among the graduating class will be used.

7. Flag protocol, such as http://www.usa-flag-site.org/etiquette-display.shtml will be used to resolve questions about the proper display of the flags.

8. The Commencement Committee reserves the right to make final decisions regarding which flags will be carried in a given ceremony, and by which students.