



URSULINE ACADEMY

High School

2026-2027 Senior Graduation Dress Guidelines

As a member of the graduating class in the 300th year of Ursuline Academy, you are expected to be dressed appropriately. In selecting your dress, makeup, hairstyles, and shoes, please keep in mind that the rule of thumb is SIMPLICITY. We ask that you comply fully with the guidelines in a spirit of cooperation and respect for the tradition that has prompted their writing. It is because the classes before you have been faithful to those standards which Ursuline has set before its students that you and your class will be able to become a part of the tradition of perhaps the most beautiful high school graduation in the city.

Color of the Dress

- The dress must be STARK WHITE. Ivory, candlelight, magnolia, eggshell, snow white, wedding white and similar shades are not white on stage and would appear in marked contrast to other dresses.
- Silk or any silk blend is **not allowed** because it looks ivory next to many dresses. Although other materials may be stark white, the best way to assure your dress is stark white is to purchase polyester satin.

Adornments on/to the Dress

- **A slip must be worn with all dresses.**
- Rhinestones, sequins, beading, pearls, appliqués and such are not allowed on any clothing.
- Glitter of any kind is not allowed on the skin or clothing.
- Any sash, ribbon, trim, and such must be STARK WHITE.
- A stark white jacket over the dress is acceptable, but no shawls or capes are allowed.

Style/cut of the Dress

- Necklines must be modest and cover the chest. Low cut, revealing styles are not acceptable.
- Both shoulders must be covered. The shoulder strap of the dress must cover **two and one half inches across the shoulder**. Spaghetti straps, off-the-shoulder, cold-shoulder styles, etc. are not acceptable.
- Hemlines must cover the top of the shoe but not reach the floor. You should be able to easily walk in the dress without having to hold it up.
- Trains (even in a bustle), hoops and/or bouffant petticoats are not permitted.

- The back of the dress must be modest. There must be opaque material from the bottom of the shoulder blades to the bottom of the dress. No cut outs of any kind are allowed.
- No slits are allowed in the front of the dress. Back slits must not come any higher than the bottom of the knee.

Shoes, hair, jewelry, etc

- Shoes must be ALL stark white. (No wooden heel, adornment of any color, etc.)
- Shoes must be simple with no pearls, rhinestones, oversized bows, etc.
- Shoes must be dress shoes. (boots, casual sandals, etc. are not allowed)
- Shoes must have a moderate heel. (no higher than 3 ½ inches)
- All shoes must have a back. (A simple strap is allowed)
- Flats and shoes with a very low heel are encouraged!
- Jewelry must be kept to a minimum. Dangling earrings should not be worn. Graduates may have only one earring in each earlobe. One simple necklace and bracelet are allowed. NO large face watches or exercise gadgets are allowed. (ex. Smart Watches, Fitbit, etc) *Absolutely no nose piercings.
- Hair styles should be moderate. No adornments of any kind unless pre-approved by Mrs. Delatte (no headbands, tiaras, wreaths of flowers, bows, etc.). Hair must be of a naturally occurring color.
- Make-up should be appropriate.

Approval:

- Dresses must be approved by Mrs. Delatte. All questions regarding dresses should be addressed to Mrs. Delatte. Failure to wear the EXACT dress which was approved will result in you not being allowed to graduate on stage.
- All dresses and shoes must be approved by **April 9, 2027**. A senior will not receive her Graduation admit cards until her dress has been approved. You must wear the shoes you will wear to graduation when you have your dress approved.
- You may get pre-approval of the dress and color by Mrs. Delatte.
- If there is any question over the color of the dress and whether or not it is stark white, confirm the color with Mrs. Delatte – not the sales clerk at the store.
- Please do not purchase a dress from a store that does not allow you to have a swatch to bring to school for approval of the color. Mrs. Delatte has final say-so, not the store.

Each year Ursuline and individual graduates receive many compliments on how beautiful the graduation ceremony has been. One of the contributions to the beauty of it is the cooperation of the seniors with these guidelines for dresses. Complying with these guidelines is one concrete example of class unity and of school loyalty. Mrs. Delatte asks for your full cooperation in this matter. Mrs. Delatte will keep a list of the seniors whose dresses have been approved. Your cooperation in having your dress approved by the deadline set will be appreciated.