

Graduation Hood Colors

Following a petition from AOTA President Florence Clark PhD, OTR, FAOTA the **Intercollegiate Bureau of Academic Costume (IBAC)** registered **SLATE BLUE** as an alternate color for **Occupational Therapy**.

The IBAC has held a moratorium on adoption of new colors since the 1960's and only establishes an "alternate" color if there sufficient reason and significance for the color.

What does an "alternative color" mean?

- The exemption for the alternate color does not replace another color that may be in use at a higher institution.
- Institutions voluntarily comply with the academic code. Institutions of higher education are not "wrong" to use another color within their scheme of hoods.
- Colors being used to designate OT such a green (health related area) or gold (science) are valid options if an institution decides to use those colors.

Why Slate Blue?

"**Slate Blue**" is a grayish blue color that best matches the color of the uniform of the "reconstruction aides". The reconstruction aides, civilian women who served in World War I, are credited with an influential role in the development of occupational therapy. Their task was to provide treatment in the form of occupation to enable servicemen suffering from wounds or battle neurosis to return to the battlefield.

<http://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=97589>