

# Intercollegiate Bureau of Academic Costume

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Dr. Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L

Assoc. Dean & Chair of the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

President of the American Occupational Therapy Association

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Dear Dr. Clark,

Thank you very much for contacting the IBAC in hopes of registering slate blue as the official color for Occupational Therapy. Let me first lay out the process and the determinations based upon our research.

The general framework for the designation of academic colors originated in the 19th century in hopes of setting a standard that would be used and recognized throughout the United States.

This framework of academic colors was adopted by colleges and universities in the United States and continues to be followed by nearly all institutions of higher learning.

This voluntary standard only applies to the academic disciplines and the colors used in such standard are only broad classifications.

Since the 19th century, the number and variety of degrees has expanded greatly. In the 1960's, the IBAC determined that a moratorium would be placed on the adoption of new colors.

Instead, the general classification would continue to serve a model and would offer sufficient variety to cover specialized degrees.

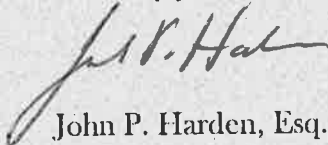
As professional associations began to grow in prominence and as degrees began to become more specialized, various groups have requested an exemption from this moratorium.

When sufficient reason exists, an "alternate" color has been established. However, in doing so the following applies:

- The exemption is for an alternate color and does not replace another color that may already be in use at a higher institution
- Institutions voluntarily comply with the academic code. Institutions of higher learning are not "wrong" to use another color within their schema of hood colors.
- Colors that are being used to designate Occupational Therapy such a green (health related area) or gold (science) are valid options if an institution decides to use these colors.

With the above stipulations in place, we have registered slate blue as an alternate color for Occupational Therapy.

Sincerely yours,



John P. Harden, Esq.

President

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cc: Dr. Samia Rafeedie