**Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Cords:** AKD is a honor society for Sociology students. The purpose of AKD is to acknowledge and promote excellence in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and other social and intellectual activities that will lead to the improvement in the human condition. Currently, there are more than 120,000 members nationally.

**Alumni Stole of Gratitude:** A stole of gratitude is worn by a graduate and then presented to someone who provided extraordinary help or support during the student's college career. Immediately after graduation, the graduate may take a stole from around his/her neck and place it around the neck of the recipient. More than one stole may be worn during commencement, symbolizing that there are multiple people destined to receive this gift.

**Bachelor of Nursing Stoles:** The RN to BSN program at WWU began in 2013 with a mission to advance excellence in nursing practice by inspiring nurses to develop their full potential through lifelong learning. Faculty, staff, and student honor diversity, uphold social justice and advance system changes that promote healthy communities resulting in safe, high quality health care for all.

**Education & Social Justice (ESJ) Stoles:** The ESJ minor program began in 2013. Since that time, program employees have hand-made graduate stoles. The stole represents completion of requirements while honoring student commitment to understanding and effectively using social justice frameworks to address equity issues in educational, nonprofit, public services, and private organizational settings.

**Ethnic Student Center Stoles (ESC):** The ESC at WWU is a community space that supports historically underrepresented ethnic students and allies by providing a social atmosphere and inclusive environment to engage in identity exploration and strive for cultural awareness and academic excellence. This is a student-run organization within the Associated Students of WWU.

**Honor Cords:** Gold honor cords designate students graduating with magna cum laude or cum laude. Magna shall be awarded to students whose honor gpa places him/her at the 97th percentile or higher among graduating seniors. Cum laude shall be awarded to students whose honor gpa places him/her at the 92nd-96th percentile among graduating seniors. White cords are dedicated to students completing all of the requirements of the University Honors Program.

**Institute for Global Engagement Stoles:** Students participating in WWU’s International and Study Abroad program can wear stoles displaying the flags/color of their country of origin or the location of their study abroad courses. In an increasingly inter-connected world, WWU’s Institute for Global Engagement aims to engage Western’s communities in thinking and acting globally.

**Sigma Iota Epsilon (SIE) Stoles:** SIE is a national honorary and professional management fraternity. The purpose of Sigma Iota Epsilon is to encourage and recognize the scholastic excellence in students and to promote cooperation between academic and practical aspect of management. Members must hold at least a GPA of 3.25 and must have completed management courses.
**Veteran Stoles and Cords:** Graduates wearing white veteran stoles at commencement identify the student veterans graduating. These students are honored for their academic accomplishments and their service to our country. Red, white, and blue cords represent students who are dependents of veterans graduating - whether that be children or spouses of veterans.

**Western’s Leadership Advantage (LEADS) Stoles:** LEADS provides opportunities to students including courses, trainings, events, and participation in collaborative learning experiences on and off campus. LEADS is committed to developing leaders who are ethical, attuned to developing social entrepreneurship skills, and creating solutions for environmental and social sustainability.