

## ACADEMIC COSTUME<sup>a</sup>

Candidates for graduation with degrees or titles which require no less than four (4) years of collegiate instruction shall be required to wear academic costumes during the baccalaureate service and commencement exercises in accordance with the rules and regulations of the University (*Revised UP Code: Art 422*).

The *sablay* is the official academic costume of the University, replacing the upon its introduction in 1990 and its official adoption in 2000, the traditional mortarboard (cap) and toga.

The *sablay* symbolizes our nationalism and the importance we put upon our indigenous culture, which are among the values learned from the University. The word “*sablay*” refers to an indigenous loose garment that, simple yet elegant, is used traditionally used for formal occasions. As a verb (*isablay*), it also means to put a precious object like a piece of cloth or garment upon one’s shoulder, as a way of giving value and respect to this selfsame object.

The *sablay*, as the academic costume is adorned with *ukkil* and geometric elements. The *ukkil* represents the growth of knowledge while the triangles and chevrons, as geometric patterns, are common design elements across indigenous cultures in the Philippines.

The University’s acronym, UP appears as a symbol on the *sablay*. This symbol is based on the baybayin for U and P, but it has been designed to represent the University’s indigenous acronym itself, and is not meant to be read in a syllabic way as the corresponding baybayin characters are.

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<sup>a</sup>72nd UPD UC Meeting: 06 December 2000, EC Meeting: 21 February 2001, 73rd UPD UC Meeting: 28 February 2001, Report of the Committee on the Sablay 2013, AO No. PAEP 13-64