

To make a graduation corsage, gather a few sturdy fresh flowers, arrange them in a small cluster, and secure their stems with floral tape. Add ribbon or a wristband, then keep the corsage cool until it is time to wear it.

Choose flowers and supplies

Pick blooms that will hold their shape without a water source for a few hours. Spray roses, carnations, and chrysanthemums are useful choices. Small pieces of greenery can fill gaps without making the corsage too heavy.

Choose colors that suit the graduate’s outfit or reflect the school colors. One main color and a little greenery can look just as considered as a larger mix. Before you start, gather:

- Two or three small flowers and a few pieces of greenery
- Floral shears or sharp scissors
- Floral tape and thin floral wire
- Ribbon and a wristband or corsage pin

Prepare the flowers

Place the flowers in clean water while you work. Remove damaged petals and any leaves that would sit below the waterline. Let the flowers drink before assembling the corsage, especially if they have been out of water.

Cut each stem to about two inches. Keep the pieces of greenery a little shorter, so they frame the flowers rather than hide them. Set aside an extra bloom in case a stem breaks or a flower looks out of place.

Arrange and secure the cluster

Place the largest flower in the center, then tuck the smaller flowers and greenery around it. Hold the cluster against your wrist or near the lapel to check its size. The flowers should be visible without getting in the way of a sleeve or gown.

Wrap floral tape firmly around the gathered stems, starting just below the blooms and working down. Stretch the tape gently as you wrap so it sticks to itself. If a flower needs support, use a short piece of floral wire around its stem before taping the cluster together. Cover the wire ends with tape.

Finish and keep it fresh

Wrap ribbon over the taped stems and tie a small bow. For a wrist corsage, fasten the cluster securely to a wristband with ribbon or wire, keeping any wire ends covered. For a pinned corsage, leave enough room beneath the flowers for a corsage pin.

Make the corsage close to the ceremony. Until then, keep it cool and away from direct sun. A refrigerator can help, but keep the flowers away from fruit and avoid freezing them. A light mist can help keep the blooms from drying out.

Questions about graduation corsages

Can I make a corsage the night before?

Yes. Store it in a cool place overnight, and check the flowers and fastening before the ceremony.

Where should a pinned corsage go?

It can sit on a lapel or near the shoulder. Pin it through a sturdy layer of fabric, taking care not to prick the wearer.

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