

Dress and Personal Appearance

Recognizing the clothes students wear reflect personal taste and are influenced by cultural background, the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine maintains that students should dress in a neat, clean personal appearance at all times. Inappropriate attire may interfere with the student's ability to establish proper working relationships with patients, fellow students, staff, residents and physicians. In addition, uncleanliness or inappropriate attire may provoke uneasiness or negative feelings toward the student.

Students are to consult course or clerkship directors to be apprised of specific course or clerkship dress code requirements. For overall clarification of this policy, contact the Office of Academic Affairs.

Dress Guidelines For MS III's and IV's

The image a student projects has a major influence on how attendings and patients perceive them. Consequently, student appearance (which will include attire and personal grooming) is one criterion entering into a student's clerkship evaluation and grade. The following general guidelines should be followed throughout the clinical years. Students should follow the following general guidelines although individual clerkships may modify them with specific dress attire appropriate for that clerkship experience. Students are, however, required to wear their Student Physician Photo ID badge.

A. General Standards

- Student Physician Photo ID badges must be worn AT ALL TIMES.
- White Coats are to be worn in all clinical settings unless the student is specifically told not to by the Clerkship Director or rural preceptor.
- Good personal hygiene is to be maintained at all times. This includes regular bathing, use of deodorants/antiperspirants and regular dental hygiene.
- Avoid distracting perfumes or colognes (may precipitate allergies or sensitivities).
- Blue jeans, shorts, midriff tops, tee or tank shirts, halters, shirts or tops with plunging necklines, and sweatshirts are prohibited in the hospital or clinical environment.

B. Hair Maintenance

- Hair should be neat and clean and styled off the face and out of the eyes.
- Shoulder length hair should be secured to avoid interference with patients and work.
- Hairstyles or color should not be distracting to or take away from patient interactions

C. Dress, Shoes, and Hand Care

- Clothing should be clean, professionally styled and in good repair.
- Women: skirts or dresses should be at least medium length. Slacks are acceptable but not jeans.
- Men: slacks, dress shirt and a necktie (unless the student is told specifically not to wear one for hygiene or safety reasons). Jeans are not acceptable.
- Shoes must be comfortable, clean and in good repair. Shoes must be worn with socks or hose. Due to blood or needles that may penetrate the fabric, sandals, open toe, or canvas shoes are not permitted in a clinical or hospital setting.
- Artificial fingernails are not permitted since they are a source of infection.

D. Scrub Suits

- Scrubs are to be worn in specific patient care areas only, i.e. OR, ICU's. Scrubs are hospital property and are not to be defaced, altered or removed from the hospital. Students with religious dress issues are to contact the hospital staff for permission to alter the hospital owned scrubs.
- Soiled scrubs are a source of contamination and are to be changed as soon as possible.
- If a scrub suit must be worn outside the OR or ICU, it must be clean and then covered with a clean, white lab coat. Shoe covers, masks, and hair covers must be removed before leaving the clinical area.

Approved by Dean's Advisory Committee-June 16, 2010