

Dress Code for Clinical Education

The status of each individual is reflected by the initial image portrayed to others. Studies have shown that professional competency is judged initially on the outward appearance and manner of health care professionals. Trust and acceptance by patients is an important factor in how well they respond to instruction and treatment. Dress regulations, in many instances, serve to protect the patient and the professional, as well as identify the professional to patients and other health care practitioners. Standards for clinical dress have been established for the well-being of all students participating in clinical educational settings.

1. WCC PTA Program polo shirt, khaki slacks, and a blazer-length, white lab jacket is considered full uniform dress and must be worn at all time when in the clinical setting or representing the college, along with the clinical name tag. Students must wear their uniform at all times so that patients are aware of the fact that a student is treating them.
2. Socks or neutral-colored stockings are to be worn at all times while in the clinic.
3. Shoes are to be low heels with rubber soles. Athletic shoes or walking shoes are appropriate, it is the student's responsibility to maintain an appropriate appearance of footwear. Shoes must be neutral without bold colors or distinguishing marks.
4. No clogs or sandals are allowed.
5. Extravagant jewelry is not allowed. This includes no more than one necklace and no bracelets. Small earrings only are allowable. Nothing that dangles is acceptable. Jewelry for body piercings is not allowed in the lab or in the clinic (tongue, nose, belly button, eyebrow, etc.).
6. Hair must be tied back if longer than shoulder length. Hair, of any length, should be kept out of the face and eyes. Hair should be of a natural tone. Beard or mustache must be neatly trimmed. Male students without a beard or mustache are expected to shave daily.
7. Nails should be clean and neatly trimmed so that tips of nails do not show beyond fingertips. Nail polish must be intact and not be chipped or "wearing off".
8. A water-resistant watch with a second hand is required.
9. Students should have a small notebook and pen with them at all times in the clinic.
10. Each student must be identified by an approved nametag—obtained from an appropriate vendor of the college.
11. Strong perfume, deodorant, hair spray, coffee, and cigarette smoke are offensive to many patients. Therefore, students must ensure against being offensive.
12. No gum chewing is allowed.
13. Tattoos must be covered when in the clinical setting.
14. Students must abide by policies of the Program and clinical facility. If policies are different, students are expected to follow the more restrictive policy.