



Policy Title: Student Dress Code

Accountable Dean(s) or Director(s):

Dean of Admissions & Student Affairs

Approval Body:

Professionalism & Promotions Committee

RELEVANT LCME STANDARD:

3.5 Learning Environment/Professionalism

POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:

The LCME states: A medical school ensures that the learning environment of its medical education program is conducive to the ongoing development of explicit and appropriate professional behaviors in its medical students, faculty, and staff at all locations.

POLICY GUIDELINES:

Medical students are expected to uphold standards of professional dress in both educational and clinical environments, presenting themselves in a manner that upholds the dignity of the medical profession. Trust and confidence is crucial for successful patient outcomes, and professional attire plays a key role in fostering this trust, inspiring confidence, and strengthening the doctor-patient relationship. Students with religious or cultural considerations that may conflict with this policy should seek guidance from the Office of Student Affairs.

Pre-Clerkship Phase

1. Tulane I.D. badges must be worn at all times and be clearly visible.
2. Clothing should be clean, neat, and free from revealing or distracting elements. Avoid clothing with logos, slogans, or images that may be offensive, disruptive, or divisive.
3. Maintain good personal hygiene and refrain from wearing strong scents, including colognes or perfumes, to avoid triggering sensitivities in others.

Clinical Settings (Patient or Standardized Patient Encounters)

Clerkship directors will advise students whether the recommended attire is scrubs or professional dress or something else, as attire is typically based on the nature of the clinical rotation and the duties to be performed.

1. General Standards

- a. Tulane ID badges, and the badge of the appropriate facility, must be worn at all times and should be clearly visible.
- b. Personal cleanliness is expected. Avoid strong scents, as patients or team members might be sensitive.

2. Attire: Students rotate in a variety of settings; some hospitals and clinics may have more specific policies regarding what is acceptable, especially in operating rooms. Please follow hospital policy; ask your supervising attending or clerkship director for guidance if things are unclear.
 - a. Scrubs
 - i. Clerkship directors and/or site directors will advise students as to when scrubs are required, and how to obtain the scrubs if they are provided.
 - b. Professional attire
 - i. Wear a clean white coat.
 - ii. Wear professional-appearing shirts/tops, pants, skirts, or dresses. Jeans and shorts should not be worn.
 - iii. Clothing should never be distracting or offensive. Avoid clothing with logos, slogans, overt political messages, or offensive language.
 - iv. Clothing should allow for movement and maintain modesty while performing a physical exam or a procedure.
 - v. Shoes should be closed-toe, clean, and in good condition. Sandals, flip-flops, or other open-toed shoes are not permitted in clinical settings for safety reasons.
3. Personal Appearance
 - a. Visible tattoos should not be distracting or offensive and should be covered if they do not meet professional standards.
 - b. Facial piercings should not be distracting and should not pose a risk to patient care.
 - c. Fingernails should be trimmed, clean, and not distracting. For surgical specialties, please adhere to the hospital's established policies and guidelines regarding what is acceptable in the OR.
 - d. Hair should be clean and well-maintained and should not interfere with patient care. For example, hair should not contact the patient during a physical exam.
 - e. Students with facial hair should consider whether the facial hair interferes with N95 respirator fit.
 - f. Jewelry should not be distracting or offensive. Overall, keep jewelry minimal and avoid large or dangling pieces to minimize the risk to patient safety. For surgical specialties, please adhere to the hospital's established policies and guidelines regarding what is acceptable in the OR.
4. Technology
 - a. Cell phone usage is not permitted while interviewing/examining patients unless directly relevant to clinical care.

LAST REVIEW DATE/APPROVAL:

Professionalism & Promotions Committee: 12/17/24

REVIEW CYCLE:

Every 5 years