

Dress Code for Students in the Clinical Setting
Alliance for Clinical Education Recommendations
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A standard of personal grooming, dress, and hygiene is important to ensure a safe environment conducive to the delivery of health care services. The appearance of students can affect the confidence that patients have about the care students provide.

ACE recommends the following guidelines for students in the clinical setting:

Hair

- Clean, well-groomed, and controlled so as not to compromise patient care.
- Beards, mustaches, and sideburns must be short, neat, well-trimmed, and follow the contours of the face for sanitary and safety purposes.
- Hairstyles should be neat and styled appropriately for a professional setting. Hair color must be a natural color.

Jewelry

- Jewelry should be professional in appearance.
- No jewelry should be worn on cheek, eyelid, eyebrow, lips, tongue or chin.
- Modest nose studs are permitted; nose rings/hoops are not allowed.
- Earrings can be worn in ears only and cannot exceed two earrings per ear.
- Jewelry such as chains and necklaces should not come into contact with patients, the work area, or be such that it may cause a safety issue.
- Gages in ears must be plugged, flesh-colored only.
- Accessories such as scarves, bandanas, hats, buttons and pins should not be worn. Clinical Placement Coordinators should contact the clinical sites directly regarding exemptions for religious or cultural reasons.

Please Note: Medic alerts and wristwatches are not considered jewelry.

Cosmetics and Fragrances

- Makeup should be appropriate for a professional setting.
- Heavy scented lotions, perfumes, colognes, essential oils and after shaves is not permitted.
- The heavy scent of tobacco, food, and other products is not permitted.

Smoking/Gum Chewing

- Most clinical agencies are tobacco free, including cigarettes, electronic cigarettes and chewing tobacco.
- Agency policy regarding tobacco use must be followed at all times.
- Chewing gum is not permissible when interacting with patients.

Clothing

- Students are required to wear their school scrubs/uniforms in accordance with agency/school guidelines at all times.
- Clothing must be professional in appearance at all times.

- Clothing should be neat, clean, pressed, and in good repair.
- All students and instructors must wear picture school ID badges, which are clearly visible at all times.

Tattoos

- Visible tattoos must be covered to the extent possible.

Footwear

- Socks or hosiery must be worn.
- Shoes should be clean, polished and in good condition.
- Good quality, comfortable, supporting, quiet and professional shoes must be worn.
- The following shoes are not permitted: open toe, open heel, sandals, hiking boots, crocs, flip flops, cowboy boots or shoes with a back strap.
- Soles should be non-marking and should provide sure footing.

Nails

- Artificial nails, gels or overlays are not allowed in patient care areas for infection control purposes.
- Nails must be kept short and clean.
- Nail color, if worn, should not be an extreme color. Nail art is not permitted.

Personal Communication and Entertainment Equipment

- Personal electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, wearable tech such as smart watches headphones and tablets/laptops, are not permitted unless used as a part of patient care. Students must follow the policies of the agency at all times.
- Clinical sites are not liable for any personal items, including electronic devices, that are lost, misplaced, stolen or damaged in the clinical setting.

Any specific questions regarding appropriate dress code, standards of conduct and identification practices should be directed to the agency and school.