

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

<b>SUBJECT: Student Dress Code Policy</b>
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I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- A. To inform students, faculty, and staff of appropriate appearance of students in various curricular activities and as ambassadors of the University of Houston College of Medicine.

II. BACKGROUND

UH College of Medicine students are representatives of the College and University of Houston. Students must remember that this is a professional school, and as such, it is expected that students display an appropriate level of judgment with regard to personal hygiene, grooming and dress. Students must maintain an appearance that demonstrates respect and meets professional standards in all non-clinical and clinical activities.

III. POLICY

A. Classroom-Based Activities

- 1. Casual attire (defined in section V) is permitted during regularly scheduled classroom activities as taught by UH College of Medicine faculty.
- 2. Business casual clothing (defined in section V) is required for attendance at guest speaker events including academics and community members.

B. Anatomy Lab

- 1. Long white lab coats must be worn in the Anatomy Lab at all times. These coats are designated for Anatomy spaces only and should not be taken out of the lab unless to be washed at home. Do not store your lab coat in your UH College of Medicine locker.
- 2. Scrubs must be worn in the lab under a student's lab coat. Scrubs may be any color and purchased from the UH Bookstore or other scrub vendor.
- 3. Low heel, close-toed shoes must be worn at all times. Athletic shoes are permitted.

C. Longitudinal Primary Care

1. Continuity Clinic

- A. Business Professional attire (defined in section V), closed-toe shoes, white coats with sewn on UH College of Medicine patch, visible UH College of Medicine Student Identification Card and Name Tag are required at all times during CC sessions.
  - 1. Scrubs are not allowed unless they are routinely worn by the preceptor and you have his/her permission. If scrubs are worn, they must be approved by your preceptor.
  - 2. Business casual attire is only allowed if that is what is routinely worn by the preceptor and you have his/her permission.

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- B. Please keep any perfume/cologne or strongly scented soap use to a minimum as some patients can be very sensitive or allergic to these.
  - C. Keep good personal hygiene habits, including neatly trimmed and clean fingernails (no nail polish or artificial nails), in all clinical settings
  - D. Hair that is long enough to touch a patient when you lean over to examine them should be kept in a ponytail or secured in some way as to not make contact with the patient.
  - E. Jewelry should be minimal. Avoid things such as large hoop earrings or dangling necklaces/bracelets when working with children, as they may grab them.
2. Household Centered Care
- A. Business casual attire is appropriate for household visits.
  - B. Do not wear your white coat.
  - C. UH College of Medicine Student Identification Card and Name Tag must always be visible.
  - D. Please keep any perfume/cologne or strongly scented soap use to a minimum as some people can be very sensitive or allergic to these.
  - E. Keep good personal hygiene habits, including neatly trimmed and clean fingernails (no nail polish or artificial nails).
  - F. Jewelry should be minimal. Avoid things such as large hoop earrings or dangling necklaces/bracelets when working with children, as they may grab them.
- D. Simulation Lab
- 1. Closed-toed shoes are required for any activity, including practice sessions, in the Center for Clinical Arts, Skills, and Experiential Learning (CCASEL). Shoes should be flats or have a heel no higher than two (2) inches.
  - 2. During PETA/clinical skills or standardized patient experience, UH College of Medicine scrubs or Business Casual Attire is required.
  - 3. During High Stakes Exams such as OSCEs, business professional attire is required.
- E. Clinical Rotations and Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships
- 1. Students must dress according to the dress code as outlined by the hospital or clinic for which they are working.
  - 2. Should no dress code be available, professional business attire, closed-toe shoes, white coats with UH College of Medicine patch, visible UH College of Medicine Student Identification Card and Name Tag are to be worn.
  - 3. Please keep any perfume/cologne or strongly scented soap use to a minimum as some patients can be very sensitive or allergic to these.
  - 4. Keep good personal hygiene habits, including neatly trimmed and clean fingernails (no nail polish or artificial nails), in all clinical settings.
  - 5. Hair that is long enough to touch a patient when you lean over to examine them should be kept in a ponytail or secured in some way as to not make contact with the patient.
  - 6. Jewelry should be minimal. Avoid things such as large hoop earrings or dangling necklaces/bracelets when working with children, as they may grab them.
- IV. COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY
- A. Violations of the Student Dress Code Policy may be considered a breach of professional standards expectations. Any student that has a question or concern about this policy should direct comments to Student Affairs.

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- B. Students will receive feedback about their grooming and attire from standardized patients, faculty, course directors, and peers when their appearance does not meet expectations for professional and clinical environments. These guidelines apply for all circumstances involving patient care, real or simulated.
3. If a student has a medical reason that they cannot comply with the guidelines, a note from their treating provider explaining the need for an exception must be provided and decisions on exceptions will be made by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Outreach and Admissions.

V. DEFINITIONS

Casual Attire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Comfortable, informal clothing</li> <li>b. Example of unacceptable attire include but not limited to: pajamas; halter, low-cut, cropped, sheer, or ill-fitting tops.</li> <li>c. All clothing must fit so that inappropriate exposure does not occur during normal activities</li> </ul>
Business Casual Attire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Slacks with collared shirt</li> <li>b. Slacks or skirt with blouse</li> <li>c. Dress</li> <li>d. Example of unacceptable attire include but not limited to: clothing that exposes the navel; denim jeans; mini-skirts; halter, low-cut, cropped, sheer, or ill- fitting tops</li> <li>e. All clothing must fit so that inappropriate exposure does not occur during normal activities</li> </ul>
Business Professional Attire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Slacks with collared shirt and tie</li> <li>b. Slacks or skirt with blouse</li> <li>c. Dress</li> <li>d. Example unacceptable attire include but not limited to: shirts without ties if wearer identifies as male; halter, low-cut, cropped, sheer, or ill-fitting tops</li> <li>e. All clothing must fit so that inappropriate exposure does not occur during normal activities</li> </ul>
Clinical Learning Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Includes all real or simulated clinical learning activities (e.g. those that involve patients or standardized patients)</li> </ul>

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<b>Approval History</b>		
<i>Approver</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Date</i>
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