

Student - Policy on Professional Dress for Medical Students



Policy Number: 100.1150.100

Policy Revision Date: 2021-04-27

Policy Category: General Administrative

Policy Owner: Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Policy Audience: Student Council, Faculty

1. Definitions:

2. Medical Curriculum Committee Review:

Medical Curriculum Committee Review: April 27, 2021

3. Introduction / Purpose:

Healthcare practitioners are required to place a high value on personal appearance, including attire. The reasons for this are rooted in concerns for infection control, communication, and cultural sensitivity.

LCME related Standard 3.5 Learning Environment/Professionalism

4. Governance and Enforcement:

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

5. Policy:

This document sets forth standards for dress and appearance necessary to meet the service and safety objectives of placing patient welfare first and the educational objectives of preparing the student to assume the role of a professional health care worker. Patient trust and confidence in the health care provider are essential to successful treatment experiences and outcomes. The message communicated by the caregiver by his/her dress and appearance plays a fundamental role in establishing this trust and confidence. Students should consider the cultural sensitivities of their most conservative potential patients and present yourself in a manner that will earn their respect, ensure their trust, and make them feel comfortable. Recent trends in clothing, body art, and body piercing may not be generally accepted by your patients, so should not be overtly displayed by medical students.

The following guidelines help prepare the student to establish a successful caregiver-patient relationship.

Any academic gathering:

Attire at that time should be neat, clean, comfortable and not detracting from the educational atmosphere. Avoid dress or attire that could be potentially offensive to your peers, faculty and guest lecturers. Good personal hygiene is to be maintained at all times. This includes regular bathing, use of deodorants/antiperspirants, and regular dental hygiene.

Students are required to wear their GCSOM badge whenever they are in the MSB or clinical environment.

Patient-related, clinical learning environment (including virtual clinical environment):

The following attire is minimally required by Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine for students in an environment with patient contact including standardized patients. Students must, however, refer to individual hospital and clinic policies for professional dress code guidelines and adhere to those while on site.

General Standards:

- Students are expected to be clean, well groomed, and dressed in a manner appropriate to their responsibilities.
 - Good personal hygiene is to be maintained at all times. This includes regular bathing, use of deodorants/antiperspirants and regular dental hygiene
 - Hair: well-groomed hairstyle, if longer than shoulder length it must be pulled back in safety/patient care considerations
 - Nails and make-up: natural in style
 - Jewelry and fragrance: moderate jewelry and fragrance must not pose a concern to patients, visitors, or colleagues
 - Piercing and tattoos: inappropriate tattoos displaying drugs, sex, violence, alcohol, profanity or tobacco products must be covered at all times
- In environments that include contact with patients, the following are not appropriate for the workplace: jeans, overalls, sweat shirts, sweat pants, shorts, leggings, halter or tank tops, non-collared tee shirts, workout clothes, sandals or open-toe shoes, caps, and bandanas.
- Appropriate work-place attire includes collared shirts, ties, slacks, pants, skirts, blouses, sweaters, dresses, dress shoes.
- Clothes and white coat should be:
 - Tailored
 - Clean and in good condition
 - Wrinkle and lint free
 - Dresses, skirts should be knee length when standing and thighs covered while seated
 - Clean and neat dress shoes - flats, boots, closed-tie shoes or comfortable shoes for walking in

- If scrubs are required for clinical rotation - site specific guidelines should be followed. In addition, hospital issued scrubs should be work in designated/mandated areas. When outside the operating room or other procedure areas buttoned lab coats, scrub jacket or barrier gown must be work over scrubs. It is not permitted to wear hospital issued scrubs to and from work.
- Students must wear their GCSOM white coat with their GCSOM badge visible at all times while in the clinical environment.
- Students are expected to maintain a professional appearance even when they are not seeing patients.

6. Key Stakeholders:

Student Council, Faculty