

UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES
School of Medicine



**DRESS CODE FOR MEDICAL AND
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTSHIP (PA)
STUDENTS**

DECEMBER 2019

Introduction

Medical and Physician Assistantship students of the University of Health and Allied Sciences are required to place value on their personal appearance including hygiene and attire. Medical and PA students are considered physicians (assistants) in training and as such should behave in a manner that will have an impact on their fitness to practise. A professional image increases credibility and safety while fostering patient trust, respect and confidence. Inappropriate dressing can have negative effects on patient care and could diminish the reputation of the School and the affiliated hospital and clinics. Students are therefore required to dress appropriately at all times, especially to lectures, tutorials, laboratories and clinical sessions. This document sets forth standards for dressing 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 healthcare worker.

General Appearance

Students must be clean and maintain appropriate personal hygiene with regard to their body, hair, nails and clothing. Students are advised to use appropriate deodorants and antiperspirants to prevent offensive body odours and to control sweating. In addition to this, odours that may interfere with the health of the patient are not permitted. This includes heavily scented colognes, body lotions, and smoke from cigarettes or other substances.

Students are required to adhere to the following regulations:

Hair

- Hair must be clean, combed and neatly trimmed or arranged/styled. There should be no outrageous haircuts.
- There should be no hair below the shoulder. Below shoulder-length hair (natural or artificial) must be secured up in a bun or with a clip to avoid interference with patients and work and to prevent the spread of infection.
- Artificial hair should be black (colour 1B or 2). There should be no outrageous hair colours, for example, red, pink, green, blue and other fluorescent colours.
- Beards and moustaches must be neatly trimmed down.

Fingernails

- Fingernails should be clean and short.
- There should be no colour.
- There should be no artificial nails.

Jewellery

- Jewellery should be minimal and understated.
- To avoid the spread of infection and harm both to the student and to patients, earrings should be studs, not dangling or hoop.
- Also, necklaces, bracelets, anklets or rings could be worn but with safety precaution.
- Tattoos if any, should be covered.

Clothing

- Avoid indecent dressing and wear clothing appropriate for the profession you are in training for. For example, exposure of the shoulders, midriff, chest, thigh or show of visible cleavage or undergarment are inappropriate and must be avoided.
- Females' dresses or skirts should not expose their thighs when seated.
- You must not wear clothes that are transparent (see-through).
- Your clothes must not bear any vulgar, offensive or obscene prints or language.
- Clothing should not have rips, tears or frayed edges.
- Clean and tidy jeans and skirts are allowed but they should be of uniform colour, and not faded or shredded.
- Clothing should allow for an appropriate range of movement, and should not be flashy or draw unnecessary attention.
- Button-down shirts (preferably with ties), professional tops or blouses should be worn and should avoid low-cut necklines.
- Tank tops, T-shirts, thin or "spaghetti-style" straps or tops and leggings are not appropriate.
- Trousers (pants, slacks, khakis) and skirts or dresses are appropriate.

Footwear

- For safety's sake, it not advisable to wear open-toed shoes, flip-flops or slippers, tennis shoes, or porous shoes. (Sandals can be allowed for lectures only).
- Dress shoes, low heels or flats are appropriate.
- Shoes for men should be worn with clean socks.
- Athletic shoes and sneakers that are clean and in good repair are allowed.

White coats

- Always bring your white coat for practical lessons, consulting and ward rounds.
- Your white coat must always be clean and ironed.
- The white coat should be at knee level or below.

Clinical students should particularly take note of the following:

- Always wear your white coats.
- Always wear your nametag in an easily viewable location. STUDENTS MUST BE IDENTIFIED AT ALL TIMES.
- Avoid distracting cologne or perfumes.
- Cosmetics should be used in moderation.

Enforcement of the Dress Code

Faculty and Staff of the School and its clinical affiliates share the responsibility for periodic assessment of the learning environment. This is to maintain professional standards, develop and conduct appropriate strategies to enhance positive influences and mitigate negative influences. Faculty and staff should identify and promptly correct violations of professional standards.

1. If a student reports to his/her place of study improperly dressed or groomed, the lecturer shall instruct the student to return home to make appropriate changes.
2. There shall be a verbal warning on the first violation.
3. A written warning shall be given on second violation copying the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee of SOM, the Dean of Students, and the Dean of School of Medicine.
4. The lecturer/instructor has the prerogative to dismiss the student from the class or clinic if there is a third violation and report the matter in writing to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee of SOM, the Dean of Students, and the Dean of School of Medicine for further action to be taken.

Exceptions to this policy may be made based on a student's disability, medical condition or other compelling reasons.