

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Retired:

Revised:

Approved by:

Maria F. Lima, Ph.D. Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research

Subject: PA Program Student Dress Code and Identification Policy

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to:

To set acceptable standards to guide Meharry Medical College Physician Assistant Program (MMC PA) students as to what is deemed appropriate classroom and clinical wear.

POLICY STATEMENT:

This Dress Code and Identification Policy is implemented in order to promote professionalism and to ensure student and patient safety. You should be aware that your appearance is reflective of the College, MMC PA Program, and the PA profession. The following applies to all students in all phases of the program. Deviations from this code may be made by individual course directors or preceptors when provided in writing. Violation of the Dress Code may result in dismissal from class or clinical activity and may adversely affect your course grade. Repeated offenses will be handled via the Professionalism Policy found at.

General

Regarding all activities on or off campus in which a student represents the College or the MMC PA Program.

- Clothing shall not be torn, frayed, cut-up or slit.
- Excessively tight clothing, excessively baggy clothing, shorts, clothing that exposes skin in the chest, abdomen and/or midriff area are not acceptable.
- All undergarments must not be visible, either by color or outline.
- Skirts and dresses must be conservative and professional in length, style, and fabric. Sleeveless dresses are allowed provided undergarments are not visible and the attire does not excessively expose skin in the chest area.
- Sundresses and spaghetti straps are not acceptable unless covered by a jacket. Nothing shorter than two inches above the knee will be allowed.

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- Evening or party clothes are not acceptable.
- Shirts/blouses must be appropriately buttoned or zipped. No tube tops or off-shoulder designs.
- Pants or slacks shorter than ankle length, i.e. capri/crop pants/gaucho pants, are acceptable provided the other policies are adhered to, e.g., not excessively tight/baggy, not deeply slit, not clingy. Pants or slacks shorter than mid-calf is not allowed. Pants or slacks must be business professional in style and fabric. Hip huggers are not allowed.
- Jogging attire, gym wear, swim wear, and bedtime attire are not acceptable. This includes items such as sweatshirts, sweatpants, and yoga pants.
- Undershirts, undergarments or spandex are not acceptable as outerwear.
- Any clothing, jewelry, or accessories that contain messages or images that are obscene, vulgar, or related to tobacco, drugs, alcohol, sex and/or violence are not acceptable.
- Tattoos must be concealed during the clinical phase.
- Conservative necklaces, rings and earrings may be worn in moderation. Nose rings, tongue rings, and other noticeable body piercing jewelry are not acceptable.
- Flip-flops, beach/pool wear shoes, or house shoes are not acceptable.
- Hair must be well groomed and neat.
- Baseball caps or other hats (except head coverings required for a rotation activity or prescribed for religious/cultural observation) are not permitted in the classroom nor on rotations. Students are responsible for checking with rotation/clinical staff regarding regulations and rules for dress and head coverings specific to individual rotation policies.
- Facial hair is acceptable if clean and neatly trimmed.
- Fingernails must be clean, neat, moderate in length and well maintained.
- Students are prohibited from attending any program activity smelling of strong

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odors, including but not limited to: cologne, perfume, smoke, alcohol, or poor personal hygiene.

Specific Setting

Classroom

- Clean and neat PA Program approved MMC PA scrubs and closed toe shoes will be worn for classroom activities unless otherwise designated.
- Jeans and Meharry approved tee shirts are authorized on Fridays.
- Other dress appropriate for specific activities (e.g. business casual) will be designated through an in-class announcement or email from program faculty or staff.

Clinic

Students must follow PPE guidelines as established by CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/ppe/PPEslides6-29-04.pdf> and must follow universal precautions as established by OSHA <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/univprec/univ.html>.

- Business professional is the accepted dress for all rotations unless specified otherwise by a preceptor or the Director of Clinical Education regarding a particular rotation or rotation activity.
- Open-toed shoes are not permitted in the clinic setting.
- Jeans or denim clothing is not acceptable.
- Jewelry, piercings and accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or patient are prohibited. No drop earrings are to be worn in the clinical setting.
- No artificial nails are allowed.
- Long hair should be pulled back in a way as to not come into contact with patients.
- A short, white consultation jacket will be worn during clinical situations and patient contacts unless the facility or preceptor rules require different attire. Expectations should be discussed in advance of the first day in clinic.

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- Scrubs may be worn during patient contact with the white consultation jacket and closed toed shoes. Tennis shoes are permitted as long as they are neat and clean. This also includes patient encounters at the simulation center.
- MMC PA Program issued student identification nametag bearing the student's name, identifying the student as a Physician Assistant Student, affiliation with the Meharry Medical College, and a picture, must be worn at all times. Students will be provided one name tag. Additional name tags, due to name changes, will be provided to the student after the MMC PA Program receives the official name change notice from Admissions and Records. Students may be charged a fee for additional name tags. No alterations in style, color or wording of nametags or identification tags are permitted.
- At no time should a student, either by virtue of his/her skills or knowledge attained while progressing through the MMC PA Program, misrepresent him/herself as being other than a Physician Assistant student. Students may not use previously earned titles and credentials in any correspondence regarding or related to the MMC PA Program, (i.e. RN, PhD, RD, etc.).

These statements are general in nature and apply to most patient care settings. The student shall follow any other dress codes established by the preceptor or facility.

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE:

EXHIBITS: