



Policy: Dress Code and Identification Policy	Applicability: PA Sciences Program Students
Policy Owner: PA Sciences Program	Approved By: Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research
Effective Date: August 18, 2021	Last Reviewed: August 18, 2021
Next Review: August 18, 2022	Contact: (615)321-2933

PURPOSE: To provide Meharry Medical College (MMC) Physician Assistant (PA) Sciences Students with the Dress Code and Identification Policy.

POLICY: This Dress Code and Identification Policy is implemented in order to promote professionalism and to ensure student and patient safety. Be aware that your appearance is reflective of the College, Meharry Medical College (MMC) Physician Assistant (PA) Sciences Program and the PA profession. The following procedures apply to all students in all phases of the program regardless of geographic location. Violations of the dress code may result in dismissal from class or clinical activity and may adversely affect your course grade.

DEFINITIONS:

Professionalism – the conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional person. The characteristic emphasized in this policy is appearance.

PROCEDURE: Personal attire should be reflective of professionalism. Students in the School of Graduate Studies and Research’s PA Sciences Program, at all levels of education and training, are expected to maintain a proper professional image in their behavior and personal appearance at all times. Professional appearance includes the following:

1. Hair is to be neatly groomed and clean
2. Nails are to be neatly trimmed and clean.
3. Males are not to wear hats or bandanas inside any Meharry or affiliate facility.
4. Students are expected to wear clean, appropriate apparel (shirts, pants, dresses, skirts, etc.) and shoes to all academic activities, and when visiting any of our affiliate institutions.

Unacceptable attire for PA students include:

1. Short (mini) skirts,
2. Tee shirts with inappropriate inscriptions,
3. Halter tops,
4. Midriffs,



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5. Excessively low-cut necklines,
6. Tank tops,
7. Spaghetti straps,
8. Sweat bands,
9. Over-sized sagging pants/jeans/shorts
10. Caps or hats,
11. Rubber thongs/Flip flops
12. Leggings

Professional Dress while in the Clinic Setting should include the following:

Students must follow Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines as established by Centers for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/ppe/PPEslides6-29-04.pdf>

Students must follow universal precautions and the use of PPE as established by Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA)

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/univprec/univ.html>

1. Business professional is the accepted dress for all affiliates/clinical rotations unless specified otherwise by a preceptor of the Clinical Education Director regarding a particular rotation or rotation activity.
2. A short, white consultation jacket with the following:
 - a) The MMC PA Sciences Program Patch
 - b) The Student's first and last name
 - c) PA-S (PA-Student) after the student's name 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 a clinical setting.
3. Scrubs may be worn during patient contact with the white consultation jacket and closed toe shoes.
4. Students must wear, and have visible at all times, the Meharry Medical College institutional nametag with the following information:
 - a) The student's picture
 - b) The student's name
 - c) The institution name
 - d) The school the student is enrolled in
 - e) PA-S, identifying the students as a physician assistant student



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The following are not accepted in the Clinic Setting:

1. Open-toed shoes are not permitted in the clinic setting
2. Jewelry that is dangling/hanging, piercings and other accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or patient are prohibited.

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-/her-self as being any medical professional other than a PA student. Students may not use previously earned titles and credentials in any correspondence regarding or related to the MMC PA Program, (i.e., EMT, RN, PT, PhD, RD, etc.).

These statements are general in nature and apply to all patient care settings. The student shall also follow affiliate dress code policies established by the preceptor or facility.

EXHIBITS:

https://home.mmc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Professionalism-Policy_Final_6.18.2018.pdf