

University of Prince Edward Island	Policy Number: FNDI-020
Policy Title: PROFESSIONAL DRESS	Pages - 3
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline expectations related to professional dress and appearance for interns enrolled in the UPEI Integrated Dietetic Internship Program. Maintaining a professional appearance supports client confidence, workplace safety, infection prevention standards, and the professional image of the dietetics profession.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all dietetic interns enrolled in the UPEI Integrated Dietetic Internship Program during all practicum placements, on-campus program activities, simulation experiences, and any professional events attended as representatives of the program.

Interns must comply with the dress code policies of the placement organization in addition to this policy. Where placement site policies differ, the more stringent standard will apply.

3. Responsibility

Interns are responsible for understanding and adhering to the dress code requirements of each placement site and to this policy.

Preceptors are responsible for informing interns of site-specific dress requirements and addressing concerns related to professional appearance within the practice setting.

The Professional Practice Coordinator is responsible for communicating program expectations and addressing concerns related to non-compliance with this policy.

4. Policy

Dietetic interns are expected to become familiar with and comply with the dress code policies of their placement organization. In cases where the organization does not have a formalized dress code, interns are required to follow the *Professional Appearance: General Guidelines* outlined below.

Professional dress and appearance must reflect respect for clients, colleagues, and the profession. Interns are expected to present themselves in a manner that promotes safety, professionalism, and adherence to infection prevention and control standards.

Failure to comply with dress code requirements may result in removal from the placement site until appropriate attire is worn. Repeated non-compliance may be addressed through the program's professional conduct processes.

5. Procedures

Interns must inquire about the organization's dress code when making initial contact with the preceptor for their placement.

Compliance with the organization's dress code policy is mandatory for all dietetic interns.

If no formal dress code exists, interns must maintain a professional appearance by adhering to the *Professional Appearance: General Guidelines* outlined below.

If a preceptor or the Professional Practice Coordinator determines that an intern's attire is inappropriate, the intern may be required to leave the placement site to change into appropriate attire. Time missed due to dress code non-compliance may need to be made up.

Professional Appearance: General Guidelines

(To be followed when the practicum placement site does not have a formal dress code)

- Hair must be clean and tied back if it interferes with performance.
- Male students with beards must ensure they are neatly trimmed.
- Jewelry should be kept to a minimum. Acceptable jewelry includes stud earrings and a plain wedding band.
- To prevent harm to individuals with chemical sensitivities, scented products are not permitted. A minimal amount of scent-free makeup is acceptable.
- All visible body piercings must be approved in writing by the placement preceptor prior to the start of the placement.
- Nails must be clean, groomed, and kept short. In food service settings, interns are not permitted to wear nail polish, acrylic nails, or gel nails.
- Gum chewing is not permitted.
- Student name tags must be worn at all times.
- Footwear must be quiet and fully enclosed. Shoes must be comfortable, non-slip, and have quiet soles in patient care areas.
- Clothing must be properly fitting and professional in appearance. Tightly fitting tops, pants, or skirts are not acceptable.
- The following attire is not permitted: belly shirts, halter tops, tube tops, spaghetti straps, sheer or see-through clothing.
- Blue jeans, corduroys, sweatpants, yoga pants, tights, gym wear, or other casual clothing are not acceptable.
- Clothing with low necklines, exposed midriffs, or low-rise waistbands is not acceptable.

Food Service Placement – Level I

- Interns are required to wear medical scrubs during Level I food service placements.
- Non-mesh sneakers with non-skid soles are required.
- Hair must be covered in accordance with the organization's food service policies when working in food service areas.
- Interns must comply with all food safety, sanitation, and infection prevention policies of the placement organization, including the use of required personal protective equipment (PPE).

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Foods and Nutrition Program and revised as required to ensure alignment with university policies, placement partner expectations, occupational health and safety standards, and accreditation requirements.