

<b>University of Prince Edward Island</b>	<b>Policy Number:</b> 0010
<b>Policy Title: Professional Dress</b>	<b>Page - 4</b>
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A dress code policy is necessary for the purposes of infection control and the conveyance of a professional appearance. Dress is a professional responsibility and can affect the type of relationship that develops with clients and the professional identity conveyed to clients, families, staff, and healthcare professionals.

**1. Purpose**

To communicate clear and consistent expectations about dress code in all years of the nursing program and in all clinical sites.

**2. Scope**

All students enrolled in the nursing program (2-year and 4-year programs)

**3. Responsibility**

Faculty of Nursing

**4. Policy**

Dress codes vary between institutions and the specific policies of the institution and/or clinical setting must be followed when working in a particular institution. In these instances, the institution specific policy will be reviewed with students prior to starting clinical practice.

**5. Identification**

A student name bar must be clearly visible on the front of student’s clothing whenever they are in the clinical area during all nurse client interactions, orientations, and clinical research.

- The name bar will include the student's name and may include the pronouns the student uses to identify themselves.
- UPEI Faculty of Nursing student identification must be available for presentation by students upon entering any clinical site.

## 6. Professional Appearance

A professional appearance will be conveyed by ensuring that:

- Uniforms, street clothes, and lab coats/scrub jackets are clean, in good repair, and pressed.
- Hair is clean and tied back if it interferes with performance of nursing interventions. Long hair must be worn off the collar and pulled away from the face. If hair accessories are required, they must be secure and discreet.
- Beards are neatly trimmed.
- All jewelry and visible body piercing are discreet. Appropriate jewelry includes stud earrings and a plain band (e.g., wedding band).
- Tattoos/body art does not need to be covered. However, if a tattoo is identified as being offensive or distressing to clients, families, agency staff, or faculty, students may be asked to cover the tattoo.
- Nails are clean, groomed, short, and non polished. Acrylic nails are not permitted.

## 7. Professional Dress

Faculty and/or Clinical Nursing Instructors (CNI) will review the institution specific dress code policy with students prior to beginning clinical practice.

### **Lab Coat or Scrub Jacket:**

- Students who may need to spend time in the acute or continuing care setting outside of regularly scheduled clinical practice (e.g., to visit clients or to obtain data for professional purposes) **must wear a lab coat or scrub jacket** and be appropriately identified.
- Some community-based settings, such as group homes, club house settings or other informal settings, encourage lab coats.
- A lab coat, kept for these purposes only, is worn over business casual attire (not jeans or sweatshirts).
- Name bars are to be worn on lab coats.
- Faculty and/or CNI's will guide students if policies regarding lab coats or scrub jackets differ in specific clinical areas.

## Acute and Continuing Care Settings

- In acute and continuing care settings such as hospitals and long-term care facilities, students will be required to follow a uniform dress code.
- A **standardized nursing uniform** has been adopted for the UPEI Faculty of Nursing.
- The standardized uniform includes a **plain white scrub top** or a **white scrub top with minimal black piping** with **black scrub pants**.
- There may be acute care sites that have an assigned uniform (i.e., Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Birth Units, Surgical Suite). Students will follow the instruction their clinical nursing instructor/preceptor in these settings.
- These uniforms will be available for purchase in the **UPEI Bookstore**.
- Students may wear a white **lab coat or scrub jacket** over their uniform for warmth, or a t-shirt under their uniform. The sleeves must not interfere with nursing care or impact infection control. Bulky sweatshirts, sweaters, or hoodies are not acceptable in acute care settings.
- While in the hospital settings, change areas and lockers are provided by the institution. Uniforms and nursing shoes are to be worn on the premises only. Students must bring a change of clothing and change prior to leaving the clinical setting. **Uniforms and nursing shoes are not to be worn outside of the institution.**
- **Mental health and community health settings** may have the option for uniform or professional street clothing.

## 8. Community Based Settings (e.g., Home care, daycares, community mental health public health offices, NGOs)

- Business casual attire that is clean, neat and offers the student ease of movement to fulfill the requirements of the clinical experience and to portray a professional image.
- Business casual is style of clothing that is less formal than traditional business wear but is still intended to give a professional and businesslike impression.
- Casual clothes such as jeans, sneakers, sweatshirts, etc. are not appropriate in most settings.
- There may be settings where casual clothing is acceptable, but this will be under the direction of the Faculty and/or CNI's in specific settings.

## **9. Footwear**

### **Acute Care and Long-Term Care/Continuing Care Settings:**

- Footwear that completely encloses the foot (heel and toe) and is constructed of leather or another appropriate solid material.
- Footwear with only a mesh type covering over the toe area would not be acceptable due to risk associated with bio-hazardous fluids, chemicals, or sharps.
- The footwear must have a low, wide based heel and a slip resistant sole.
- The footwear must be in good condition and the sole must not be worn smooth.
- Sandals and footwear with heel straps are not acceptable.

### **Other Settings:**

- Footwear should be clean and supportive with closed toe and heel. No high heels permitted. If it is culturally unacceptable to wear shoes in a particular home, soled slippers may be worn.
- In clinical sites where protective footwear is not required, students will follow the guidance of Faculty and/or CNI's related to appropriate footwear.

## **10. Equipment**

- A watch that records time in seconds is essential.
- A stethoscope.