

# Student Dress Code

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Students enrolled in the Doctor of Pharmacy program are required to place a high value on personal appearance, including attire. The reasons are rooted in concerns for spread of infection, communication, and cultural sensitivity. This document sets forth standards for dress 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 health care worker. Patient trust and confidence in the health care provider are essential to successful treatment experiences and outcomes. The message communicated by the healthcare provider by their dress and appearance plays a fundamental role in establishing this trust and confidence. Students should consider the cultural sensitivities of their most conservative potential patients and present themselves in a manner that will earn their respect, ensure their trust, and make them feel comfortable. The following guidelines help prepare the student to establish a successful provider-patient relationship.

## 2. POLICY

### Expectations in all environments

- // An approved identification badge must be worn and visible at all times.
- // Appearance, including clothing, is clean, neat, not distracting, and is appropriate for specific educational, research, and professional environments.
- // When laboratory coats are required, all students must wear a short (sport coat length) laboratory coat with long sleeves with a buttoned front and a name tag.
- // Grooming and personal hygiene are professionally appropriate.
- // Cosmetics and scented products are to be used in moderation and not be distracting to others.
- // Clothing, footwear and jewelry should not interfere with work performance or impede safety.

### Classroom and laboratory

- // Students may dress casually for routine in-person and online classes and laboratories.
- // Laboratory courses may have additional safety-related requirements for attire.
- // Exceptions to this dress code will be otherwise noted in the syllabus or other course communications.
- // Although casual dress is generally acceptable, the following are not acceptable: exposed abdomens; exposed undergarments; obscene phrases or pictures on clothing; pajamas; sunglasses; and non-cultural or non-religious head coverings.

### Experiential Rotations

Students will maintain a neat and clean appearance, and dress in attire that is accepted as professional to the patient population served and is in line with the dress code at the institution of the introductory or advanced practice experience.

### Other Professional Activities

Professional attire may be required in settings other than experiential rotations. These settings include, but are not limited to, formal School of Pharmacy ceremonies.

- Professional attire includes clean, professionally-styled clothing, such as tailored collared shirts and ties, tailored pants, and medium length dress or skirts, and dress shoes.

Business casual attire may be required in some settings, such as health fairs, class presentations, service learning activities, and student ambassador activities. Business casual attire is required for Dean's Hour presentations.

- Business casual attire includes pants or khakis, a medium length dress or skirt, dress shirt or blouse, open-collar or polo shirt, knit shirt or sweater, and loafers or dress shoes that cover all or most of the foot.

## 3. PROCEDURES

Dress code information will be provided to students during the admissions process and reinforced during orientation. Students are expected to ask their preceptor for professional dress codes at experiential rotations sites. Students will be notified of the required dress for other professional activities through WVU email or other communication. Students not in compliance with the dress code policy may be asked change clothes or to improve their appearance. Repeated offenses of the dress code policy will be reported using the Professional Performance Report (PPR). Please refer to the [Policy and Academic and Professional Standards Governing the Doctor of Pharmacy Program](#) for additional information regarding failure to comply with professional standards.

## 4. COMMENTS/EXCEPTIONS

The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, marital or family status, pregnancy, veteran status, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or gender expression. ([WVU BOG Rule 1.6](#)) Students seeking reasonable accommodations to this dress code policy should contact the Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs.