

 <p>DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE</p> <p>Pre-Clerkship Student Standards of Dress for the Clinical Learning Environment Guideline</p>	<p>Responsible unit: Undergraduate Medical Education Office</p>	<p>Established: June 15, 2023</p> <p>Last revised: August 24, 2023</p>
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A. Background & Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to establish professional standards of attire for all pre-clerkship students participating in any educational activities associated with the Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) program. This includes, but is not limited to, clinical learning experiences including Skilled Clinician, Rural Week and clinical longitudinal electives. The dress code guidelines also aim to ensure the safety and health of all participants involved in these activities. These guidelines were adapted from the NSHA, the IWK / and Horizon Health Network Dress Standards.

B. Application

This guideline applies to all pre-clerkship students registered in the Dalhousie UGME program during all educational activities, including but not limited to, Skilled Clinician, Rural Week, and clinical longitudinal electives regardless of site or province.

C. Definitions

- Horizon Health Network: a health authority responsible for the provision of health care programs and facilities in the Horizon Health Network, New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA): a health authority responsible for the provision of health care programs and facilities in NSHA, Nova Scotia.
- IWK: a health authority responsible for the provision of health care programs and facilities in the IWK Health Centre in Nova Scotia.
- UGME: Undergraduate Medical Education
- DMNB: Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick
- DMNS: Dalhousie Medicine Nova Scotia
- Pre-Clerkship: The foundational, introductory years that usually take place over the first two years of the UGME curriculum.
- C3LR: Center for Collaborative Clinical Learning and Research located in Dalhousie University’s Collaborative Health Education Building, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- LRC: Learning Resource Center which is DMNB’s clinical skills and simulation teaching facility.

D. Guideline

Employee, Physician, Student & Patient Safety

Employee, physician, student and patient safety is paramount and cannot be compromised by inappropriate or unsafe attire, accessories, footwear, facial hair, unsecured hair, personal product scents and odors.

Image

Patients have indicated via research/patient surveys that the appearance and identification of the care provider impacts the patients' sense of confidence in the care. We want to reflect an image of professionalism and to inspire confidence in patients, visitors and others. It is essential that personal grooming (such as hair, nails and scents and appearance (clothing and tattoos, body piercings) are inoffensive or inconspicuous.

Hair

- Style in such a way that it does not come into contact with the patient nor obscures vision.
- If involved in direct patient care or performing medical tests, neatly tie back longhair. Keep beards and/or moustaches clean, well-trimmed and neat.

Jewelry & Body Art

- Restrict the wearing of jewelry in patient care areas to small pieces (i.e., wedding bands, rings with no protruding edges, earrings and watches).
- Do not wear dangling necklaces, earrings, bracelets or any other jewelry that may impede patient care or safety of the employee.
- Keep all body piercing objects tight to the body and ensure that such objects do not present any source of entanglements with moving objects.
- Ensure that all piercings are clean.
- Cover any infection so that it is not visible or transferable and ensure precautions are taken to prevent transmission. {The prevention of transmission of infection is a concern with any broken skin (either from patient/environment to staff and vice versa)}.
- Cover tattoos that could reasonably be considered offensive such as depicting violence, pornography, or racism. Visible inoffensive tattoos are acceptable.

Fragrances/Smells & Scents

- Please keep perfumes, scented products and deodorants to a minimum. The learning and hospital spaces are scent-free environments.

Appropriate for Regular and for Casual Wear	Inappropriate Wear
<p>PANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business casual pants/slacks (e.g., khaki) • Dress pants • Casual dresses/skirts • Dress walking shorts/skort • Dark wash jeans in good repair for casual days (No patient interaction) 	<p>PANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweatpants (both fleece and knit) • Overalls • Shorts, skirts or dresses shorter than mid-thigh • Cut-off shorts • Spandex • Jeans or pants ripped/torn
<p>TOPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blouses • Sweaters • Turtlenecks • Shirts with collars (e.g., golf) • Button shirts • Dress shirts • Shirts without collar (T-shirts not included) • Sweatshirts for casual days 	<p>TOPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport tank tops • Transparent blouses and dresses • Low cut necklines • Strapless or halter tops without a covering (i.e., jacket or sweater worn at all times) • Spandex • Any top that does not cover to pant, short or skirt top while providing care (i.e., reveals bare midriff) • Muscle shirts, and/or shirts with monogrammed message (i.e., political, suggestive; offensive language, logos, or images which promote alcohol, marijuana, smoking, or violence)
<p>FOOTWEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on work area, this includes a variety of types of shoes; dress sandals may only be worn if there are no safety concerns- contact your tutor or C3LR/LRC staff as to whether these are appropriate in your area • Loafers or deck shoes • Dress shoes • Walking shoes • Flats 	<p>FOOTWEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flip flops • Slippers • Any footwear that may present a danger to health or safety (i.e., Crocs with a perforated covering)
	<p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>Baseball hats, bucket hats, and visors</p>

E. Procedures

If students are found in violation of these guidelines, they may be asked to leave the clinical learning session. The appropriate Unit Head will be notified and a meeting will be arranged with the student to discuss the professionalism concern. Following this, repeated violations may result in professionalism concerns being brought to the attention of the associate dean at the respective campus. If warranted, the associated may submit the student's situation for review by the progress committee. This will be documented for the student's file. It is the responsibility of the Assistant Deans Skilled Clinician and Pre-Clerkship to oversee adherence to the Pre-Clerkship Dress Code Guidelines.

F. Other

Religious & Cultural Considerations

The Undergraduate Medical Education Office is committed to ensuring that students from all religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds feel comfortable and respected. If you believe this dress code may conflict with your religious or cultural dress norms, please contact Student Affairs. They will work with you to develop appropriate accommodations.

Procedural Skills

Procedural skill sessions may require the student to come into contact with fake blood, gel, and other materials that may stain clothing. So please be aware that while professional attire is still required, you may wish to dress in clothing that can be laundered easily.