



Professional Appearance Guidelines

Being a medical student carries many responsibilities, including professional dress and behavior. In recognition of the fact that we are in contact with patients, other healthcare professionals, and other health science center personnel, it is necessary that students maintain a neat, clean personal appearance at all times.

The following guidelines apply to all LSU Health Shreveport medical students. Please note that these are minimum standards and individual courses/clerkships may have more specific requirements.

Classroom Dress Guidelines

- Shirts: Collared shirts, blouses and T-shirts may be worn as long as they do not contain inappropriate, offensive or distracting graphics. Tank tops and spaghetti straps are not appropriate. No under-garments should be exposed, with the exception of undershirts.
- Pants: Pants should be in good condition, not tattered or with holes. Jeans, cargo pants and capris are acceptable. Pants should not be excessively clinging; leggings and spandex are not suitable to be worn as pants.
- Skirts: Skirts must be of sufficient length and be a maximum of 3 inches above the knee.
- Shoes: All footwear should be clean and in good condition. Sneakers, and sandals may be worn.
- Scrubs: Scrubs are acceptable in the classroom setting. Scrubs should be clean; top and bottom should be of matching color.

** Note: During periods of extreme warm weather students may wear "shorts" that are "of sufficient length and be a maximum of 3 inches above the knee". An example would be Bermuda shorts, Classic-Fit Chino shorts, etc., however, gym or biker shorts would not qualify.

Patient Presentation or Clinical Settings

- Shirts: Men should wear button-down shirts. Women's shirts should not be low cut or excessively clinging; these tops must have sleeves.
- Pants, Skirts, Dresses: Dresses and skirts must be of sufficient length and be a maximum of 3 inches above the knee. Men are required to wear belts with their pants.
- Shoes: Shoes should be clean, neat, and always with closed toes. Heels should be of modest height. Sandals, flip flops, and house shoes are not appropriate.
- Scrubs: Scrubs are acceptable in the procedural or operative room clinical setting. Scrubs should be clean; top and bottom should be of matching color.
- ID Badge: Students must wear their ID badges at all times in the hospital or clinic areas. The badge should be worn with the name and photo clearly visible on the front, upper torso and affixed to a collar, pocket, lapel or displayed on a short neck strap.
- Accessories: As a health precaution, no false nails are allowed, and natural fingernails should not extend more than one-quarter inch past the fingertip. Makeup should not be distracting. Tattoos should be covered. Refrain from excessive use of fragrant hairspray, perfume or cologne.

** Note: Business casual dress code is expected for all standardized patient encounters and students must maintain a neat, clean personal appearance at all times.

Personal grooming

- Hair: Hair should always be clean, well-groomed and styled so that the face is visible. Extreme hair color or style distracts from a professional appearance and is not acceptable.
- Facial Hair: Students who wear mustaches, beards or sideburns should keep them trimmed appropriately and well groomed. Those who shave their facial hair should make every effort to maintain a clean-shaven look.

These recommendations for dress are expected to be adhered to any time the students are in the hospital/clinical setting or any time they interact with patients.

Students are free to dress neatly and informally in the library or when on campus to study in the classroom building.