Dress Code Policy 3.6

Original Implementation: December 13, 1993
Last Revision: January 2024

Students should maintain a professional appearance, with name tags, when they are officially representing the School of Nursing (SON), either in a clinical setting or at a professional meeting. When not required to wear a uniform, professional dress is required. If, in the judgment of the instructor the student does not meet professional expectations, the instructor may remove the student from the clinical area and a clinical demerit may be given.

PROCEDURE

In clinical areas where a clinical uniform is required, the following criteria will apply (in addition to specific clinical agency requirements):

Uniforms:

BSN STUDENTS
The approved clinical dress is a wrinkle-free white dress, white top and white pants/skirt, or white top and purple pants/skirt with an approved SFA embroidered logo, of a style typically available from uniform stores or catalogs. Skirts must be between mid-knee length and ankle length. Pants/skirts must cover all undergarments completely and must cover the student’s midriff or waist area by extending under the top or allowing the top to be tucked in. All uniforms must fit in an appropriate, conservative and modest nature. Full coverage undergarments are required. Patterned underwear or tee shirt logos should not be visible under the uniform. Tee shirts worn under the uniform must be white.

MSN STUDENTS
The approved dress for MSN Students is dress clothes with a lab coat and SON name tag. Women will wear dresses or nice pants and be neatly groomed. Men will wear nice slacks and shirts, and be neatly groomed. No jeans, short pants, or caps. Skirts must be between mid-knee length and ankle length. Pants/skirts must cover all undergarments completely and must cover the student’s midriff or waist area by extending under the top or allowing the top to be tucked in and fit in an appropriate, conservative and modest nature.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE
Jackets:

a. Pre-licensure BSN students may wear a white scrub jacket with the approved SFA embroidered logo. (This is not a white lab coat.)

b. Registered Nurses in the MSN program, may wear a white lab coat if required by the clinical agency.

Shoes and Hose: Professional, white, closed-toe uniform shoes or athletic type shoes of a white color are to be worn. White, black, or gray socks must be worn with clinical pants, and clinical
shirts and dresses. White shoes must be appropriate and must be clean, and worn with white, clean shoestrings. Do not wear shoes that are open-toed, backless, platform, or high-heeled. Shoes should be appropriate for the dress; if wearing dress clothes, dress shoes should match.

Hair: Hair must be clean, neatly groomed, and contained. Hair will be within natural occurring hair tones. Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied back and contained so that it does not interfere with the performance of clinical duties. No ornate hair ornaments or bows. Hairbands should match the natural hair color or be neutral in color, and cannot be wider than (one) 1-inch. Beards or mustaches should be short and neatly groomed.

Name Tags: The approved SFASU name tag will be worn in all clinical sites and home visits. The approved name tag is a badge with student’s picture and name that is obtained from Student Services Office in the University Center. The format for the name tag will be as follows:

a. Pre-licensure BSN students:

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
BSN NURSING
STUDENT

(Student’s picture)
FIRST NAME

b. Registered Nurses in the MSN Family Nurse Practitioner program:

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER
STUDENT

(Student’s picture)
FIRST NAME
RN

c. Registered Nurses in the MSN Nurse Educator program:

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
NURSE EDUCATOR
STUDENT

(Student’s picture)
FIRST NAME
RN

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Watches: Watches must have the capability of counting seconds, be conservative in appearance, and not be distracting in color or embellishment. No smart watches (i.e. Apple Watch).

Nails: Nails should be short and neatly groomed, and shall not exceed one-fourth of an inch beyond the fingertip. No nail polish is allowed. No artificial nails are allowed.

Jewelry: When in the clinical area, because of the potential for spread of infection and injury to client and/or student, it is recommended that jewelry be kept to a minimum.

a. Earrings should be small, stud earrings. Ear gauges, hoops, barbells and industrial bars are not allowed.

b. Rings should be only wedding sets or plain bands and limited to a wedding set or one ring per hand.

c. Necklaces, wrist, or ankle bracelets shall not be worn in clinical areas unless it is a medical alert bracelet or necklace.

d. Piercings: Visible piercings (other than ears) are not allowed and must be removed prior to entering the clinical setting. Clear space holders may be used; however, this is subject to a specific clinical site or location policy.

Scents: Due to close contact with others, deodorant/antiperspirant is to be worn. No perfumes, colognes, scented oils, or aftershave lotions should be applied.

Cosmetics: All make-up should be conservative and in moderation.

Tattoos: Subject to a specific clinical site or location policy. Tattoos that convey violence, profanity, indecency, or discrimination and all other tattoos, must be covered. As per faculty discretion, a black or neutral shirt may be worn if a white shirt does not satisfactorily cover tattoos above the elbow or that are in violation of tattoo guidelines. Visible tattoos must be covered unless they are on the arm below the elbow subject to guidelines listed above.

Professional Meetings: When representing the School of Nursing at any time, the student will dress professionally and wear name tags. For meetings or any in-facility activity, women will wear dresses or nice pants and be neatly groomed. Men will wear nice slacks and shirts, and be neatly groomed. No jeans, short pants, or caps.