Policy Title
Demeanor and Attire

Identifier
UofSCSOMG – STAF – 5.02

Prepared by: Office for Student Affairs
Reviewed by: Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions
Approved by: UofSCSOMG Policy Committee

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LCME Standards
3.5 – Learning Environment / Professionalism

Scope
University of South Carolina (UofSC) School of Medicine Greenville students

Policy Statement
The personal appearance and demeanor of every student is an important component of establishing a safe and professional environment for learning, respect among peers, and optimal patient care. Students are expected to dress in an appropriate manner while at UofSC School of Medicine Greenville and affiliated learning sites. Medical students should present a professional appearance to their University community of faculty, staff and colleagues, as well as to those whom they encounter in a clinical setting – including but not limited to physicians, patients, and all hospital employees. In addition, UofSC School of Medicine Greenville students are expected to maintain a professional attitude towards patients, colleagues, faculty, and all team members.

Reason for Policy
To provide clear expectations for the students of UofSC School of Medicine Greenville as representatives of the medical field and university

Procedures
Students must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles. Students are expected to demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others; responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest; respect for patient privacy and autonomy; accountability to patients, peers, society and the profession; and, sensitivity and responsiveness to diverse
populations, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities and sexual orientation.

Students should clearly display their UofSC School of Medicine Greenville name badge and the hospital ID Badge. The hospital Security ID Badge will include the student's name and status. When talking with patients, students should clearly indicate their student status in the introduction: “I am the medical student working with Dr. _____ and/or the team involved in your care.” Medical students must never exert authority that exceeds their level of training. Students must not speak, write, or represent themselves as independent health professionals.

UofSC of Medicine Greenville follows the requirements of the partner health system policy: S-104-06 Personal Appearance, Dress and Uniform Policy:

- Students shall maintain a neat, clean and well-groomed appearance.
- Clothes that inappropriately expose body parts or underclothing are not permitted.
- Clothing or jewelry displaying phrases or symbols that would violate policies on discrimination, harassment or creates doubt in patients’ minds regarding the ability to provide optimal patient care is prohibited.
- T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants are not considered appropriate unless specifically authorized.
- Jeans and other denim are not considered professional attire.
- Hats, scarves, hair curlers or other headwear may not be worn, unless required for infection control purposes, part of an authorized uniform, consistent with religious beliefs or otherwise authorized.
- Excessively long fingernails (artificial or real) are not permitted.
- Hair should be clean and neat.
- Perfumes, after shave lotions and colognes may cause allergic reactions in some individuals and are not to be worn.
- Chewing gum is not acceptable in the presence of patients, visitors and physicians.
- Tattoos and piercings which may reasonably be perceived as offensive are not permitted to be visible.

Attire and Physical Appearance

For all students, modesty in attire is expected. The guidelines for student dress include:

- **Clothing and Attire:**
  - Button-up shirts or polos with dress pants or khakis are acceptable on normal class days.
  - Clothing must be at appropriate length when sitting and/or standing.
  - Tops must have shoulder straps and/or sleeves, and shoulder straps must be 3-finger width if visible.
  - Shoes must be professional in appearance. No open-toe or open-heel shoes, bedroom slippers or flip-flops are allowed. Shoes must be closed-toe in a clinical setting, including working with standardized patients or partner health system patients.
  - No hats, caps or other types of headgear except those required by the hospital or those worn for religious purposes (e.g. hijab, yarmulke, turban) are allowed.
  - Ties and bowties are not required but may be worn at the discretion of the student. Ties must be restrained by a tie clip, buttoned coat, sweater, etc. when interacting with patients.
  - Whitecoats must be worn in a clinical setting, including working with standardized patients or partner health system patients. Polo shirts are not acceptable to wear under a white coat.
Scrubs may substitute shirts and pants only when suggested in advance by the medical school faculty and/or hospital officials. This includes time in the anatomy lab, but students must change before and after anatomy lab. Scrubs for anatomy lab may only be worn in the anatomy lab area.

- **Physical Appearance:**
  - Hair should be clean, and neatly groomed or arranged.
  - Students who wear long hair must pull their hair back in a clinical setting.
  - Fingernails must be kept clean, neat, and trimmed at an appropriate length.
  - Rings, necklaces, earrings, watches, etc. may be worn. They must be professional in appearance and not hazardous or distracting.

Clerkship specific information about appropriate attire is addressed at the clerkship’s orientation. Students are cautioned not to wear “scrub attire” outside of an operating room or procedure room area. Scrub attire is the property of the clinical facility and must not be removed from the grounds of the institution.

### Exceptions to the Appearance Standards

Students may deviate from these appearance standards in the following instances.

- Once released from all formal responsibilities: If students choose to “dress down” after they are released from formal responsibilities, their security badges should be removed before leaving the UofSC School of Medicine Greenville Building.
- During test weeks for summative module exams, students may deviate from appearance standards in the interest of comfort during informal or self-directed study. However, students should adhere to the standards of appearance if they are interacting with peers, faculty, staff, or patients (standardized or otherwise) in a formal education setting, or when there is a specific request from school administration.
- Time spent in the medical school on weekends does not require adherence to the appearance standards because this time does not constitute “formal responsibilities.”
- Student-planned events that do not specify a specific dress do not require adherence to the appearance standards.
- Backpacks can be used in the school but not the hospital, according to the partner health system policy.

### Sanctions

If a faculty or staff member determines that a student is not dressed appropriately in conformance with this policy directive, the faculty or staff member may ask a student to go home and return only when dressed in an appropriate manner. They may also take any additional disciplinary action as necessary.

### Additional Contacts

Office for Student Affairs and Admissions

### Related Information

UofSC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook
GHS Policy: S-104-06 Personal Appearance, Dress and Uniform Policy

### History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>Based on input from students, gender-specific guidance was removed. Exceptions were extended to testing week for module exams.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2019</td>
<td>Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles; formal approval not required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2018</td>
<td>Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI</td>
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