DRESS CODE AND PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE POLICY

The CON is committed to ensuring all students promote an appearance that is professional in order to instill confidence, trust and respect in patients and their families. It is important that nurses are clearly identified as health care professionals; this includes their professional attire.

This policy applies to all CON students who provide direct patient care in off-site or on-site clinical areas. The purpose of this policy is to provide general guidelines and standards of practice as it pertains to professional dress and appearance; clinical sites may have requirements that are above and beyond these guidelines. Any clinical site requirements must be followed. No dress code can provide for all contingences; students are expected to apply a certain amount of professional judgment in selecting clothing. If students are unsure about a clothing choice, they should seek the advice of their course coordinator. Course and clinical faculty are responsible for communicating, interpreting and adhering to this policy, and determining appropriateness of attire and appearance for their specific course and clinical facility.

Students who fail to adhere to the dress code and appearance policy may be asked to leave the on-site or off-site clinical area; make-up time for missed clinical hours associated with leaving the clinical site may not be available. Multiple violations of the dress code may result in a course failure.

Accommodations -- Students may request a dress or grooming accommodation, if necessary, through the University or applicable clinical site.

Clothing -- Clothing at the on-site or off-site clinical area should fit properly, be clean, pressed, in good condition and of a length and style that does not interfere in performing job duties. Dress and skirt length should be at a length in which you can sit comfortably in public and not be revealing. Any clothing that is short, tight, and overly revealing is inappropriate.

1. Examples of inappropriate clothing items include, but are not limited to: denim, sweatpants, exercise pants, shorts of any kind, bib overalls, leggings, tank tops and any spandex or other form fitting pants such as those worn for biking.
2. Bare midriff, low-cut necklines, sun dresses and spaghetti straps are inappropriate and therefore prohibited.
3. Undergarments should not be visible through clothing.
4. Students are permitted to wear shirts underneath scrub tops. These shirts must be black, white, or gray and be free from any designs or writing.
5. Hats, with the exception of those worn for religious purposes, are not permitted. For further information, please see the AMC Title IX policy located at http://www.ucdenver.edu/policy/TitleIX/Pages/Know%20Your%20IX.aspx
6. Jackets other than scrub jackets are not permitted for infection concerns (i.e. fleece jackets, vests or similar).
7. For safety purposes, scrub tops or bottoms may not have any zippers, rings or other accessories directly attached to the scrubs that may be pulled or accessed by patients.
Footwear -- Professional style shoes must be worn in areas where patients are present. Shoes should be clean, well-polished, in good repair, and dedicated to the work setting. Safety, comfort, appearance, and quietness should be the prime considerations in the selection of appropriate footwear.

1. Shoes must be closed-toe, flat or heels less than 2 inches, made of sturdy material that will not absorb body fluids or potentially hazardous materials and be of a neutral color.
2. Thongs, flip-flops, hiking boots, Crocs, beach sandals, and Five Fingers (or similar footwear) are prohibited.
3. Tennis shoes may be worn, but must be leather, clean, and in good repair. Mesh topped tennis shoes are not permitted due to safety concerns.

Grooming -- Students should exhibit good personal hygiene at all times. This means clean nails, teeth, hair, shoes, body, and clothes. Students must remain free of odors or scents that might be offensive or unhealthy to others, including, but not limited to, cigarette smoke, body odor, bad breath, and excessive use of perfume or cologne.

1. Additional applied fragrances such as perfume, cologne, or aftershave, are not permitted in patient care areas.
2. Artificial nails, extenders, or wraps are not permitted. Nails with decals are not permitted. Fingernails should be kept clean, and of an appropriate length to safely perform patient care.
3. Hair must be neat, clean, and styled appropriately. Hair should not fall over the eyes or on patients. Hair color or style may not be extreme. Long hair must be secured off the shoulders and face.
4. Sideburns, beards, and mustaches must be short, neat, clean, well-trimmed, and follow the contours of the face for sanitary and safety purposes.
5. Heavy use of makeup is not acceptable.

Identification Badge -- A CU CON identification badge must be worn and remain visible to patients and staff at all times while a student is in the facility.

1. Badges should be unaltered, worn at the waist or above, and either clipped to clothing or around the neck with a break-away lanyard.
2. Badges need to be easily read by patients and should not be covered by items that obstruct legibility of names and or photographs. Pins, buttons, or stickers may not be directly attached to the identification badge.
3. Off-campus agency may require students to obtain agency-specific ID badges to be worn during clinical time in the agency. If required, the first agency issued-ID badge is free to the student. Lost, misplaced, stolen agency issued-ID badges must be reported to the agency and the student will incur a replacement cost. Agency-issued ID badges must be returned to the agency, as indicated by agency policy. Any questions regarding agency-issued ID badges can be directed to Undergraduate Placement Services, the clinical instructor, or course faculty.
Jewelry -- Jewelry must not interfere with job performance or safety. Jewelry in the clinical setting should not come in contact with patients, the work area, or pose a danger of becoming caught in machinery or equipment.

1. Ear piercings, including studded earrings and small hoops, must be discreet and not create a safety hazard. Gauged or plug earrings must be less than 1/4 inch in diameter.

2. No more than 3 items may be worn in an ear at any one time. Nose studs are not allowed.

3. Any other visible jewelry worn in piercings is prohibited, including the tongue.

4. Pins, buttons, jewelry, emblems, or insignias may be prohibited by agencies and therefore not allowed.

5. Medic alert and wristwatches are not considered jewelry.

Tattoos -- Visible tattoos must be covered.

Undergraduate Scrub Policy – Students are required to wear a specific scrub style as approved by the CON. Scrubs are purchased through the campus bookstore and ordered at orientation. All scrubs and polos are required to have the CON logo embroidered on the upper left area of the scrub top. Students are required wear a black polo shirt with CON logo and khaki pants or knee-length skirt when obtaining patient assignment data for clinical preparation.

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