

Dress Code

This dress code exists to promote professionalism, safety, hygiene, and client-centered care. Student clinicians represent both the profession and the university and are expected to maintain an appearance that fosters trust, respect, and confidence among clients, families, supervisors, and community partners.

General Expectations

Student clinicians are expected to present a neat, clean, and professional appearance during all clinical activities, including on-campus clinic, off-site placements, telepractice (as applicable), screenings, and community outreach events.

Students should dress in a manner consistent with:

- Professional healthcare and educational settings
- Client comfort and cultural sensitivity
- Safety and infection control requirements
- Site-specific expectations for clinical placements

Acceptable Clinical Attire

Appropriate attire includes:

- Business casual or professional clothing, such as:
 - Slacks or dress pants
 - Khakis or professional trousers
 - Blouses, collared shirts, professional tops, or sweaters
 - Dresses or skirts of professional length (below the knee)
 - Professional cardigans or blazers
- Closed-toe shoes appropriate for movement and clinical activities
- Clean, professional footwear (e.g., flats, loafers, supportive dress shoes)

Program- or site-approved scrubs may be worn when required by specific placements or clinical activities.

Attire Not Permitted

The following are not appropriate for clinic:

- Jeans or denim (unless explicitly approved by clinical educator/site)

- Leggings worn as pants
- Sweatpants, joggers, or athletic wear
- Shorts
- Revealing, tight-fitting, or excessively casual clothing
- Crop tops, halter tops, or clothing exposing midriff
- Clothing with offensive, political, or inappropriate wording/graphics
- Torn, distressed, or frayed clothing
- Flip-flops, slippers, or excessively casual footwear
- Hats or caps indoors (unless required for religious or medical reasons)

Grooming and Hygiene

Students are expected to:

- Maintain good personal hygiene
- Wear clean clothing each clinic day
- Ensure hair is neat and secured when necessary for safety or client interaction
- Keep nails clean and of a length appropriate for clinical work
- **Avoid the use of fragrances, recognizing some clients may have sensitivities**

Jewelry and Accessories

- Jewelry and accessories should not interfere with therapy or pose a safety risk.
- Avoid excessive jewelry or accessories that may distract clients or be grabbed by pediatric clients.
- Identification badges should be worn as required.

Tattoos and Body Piercings

Visible tattoos and piercings should align with university and placement-site policies and should not contain content that could be considered offensive or unprofessional.

Telepractice Attire

For telepractice sessions, students should:

- Follow the same professional dress expectations
- Avoid overly casual clothing (e.g., pajamas, hoodies)
- Present a professional appearance and distraction-free background

Placement-Specific Expectations

Some externship or practicum sites may have stricter dress requirements (e.g., medical dress codes, scrubs, infection control protocols). Students are expected to comply with the more stringent requirement when site policies differ from university policy.

Noncompliance

Failure to adhere to the dress code may result in:

- Being asked to modify attire before seeing clients
- Removal from clinic activities for the day
- Documentation of professionalism concerns
- Additional remediation if repeated concerns occur