

Title of Policy/Procedure: Undergraduate Dress Code	Approval Responsibility (Title & Name): Jeanean Boyd, DNP, RN, Chair of Undergraduate Nursing
Approved by (Title & Name): Jeanean Boyd, Department Chair	Last Date of Approval: December 2023
Communication Requirement and Date: Posted on CONHI website and in BSN Handbook. Presented in Canvas Orientation. Changes communicated to students	Date for Next Review: December 2026
Official SharePoint Location Name and Path: UG Policies and Procedures Undergraduate - UG Policies and Procedures - All Documents (sharepoint.com)	Comments: Policy discussions initiated in Student Affairs. Dress code posted on CONHI and published in BSN Handbook

The University of Texas at Arlington Department of Undergraduate Nursing (DUN) expects students to reflect professionalism and maintain high standards of appearance in the clinical setting-

Students not complying with this policy will not be allowed to participate in clinical. Students, if unsure about uniform guidelines, should contact their faculty. Failure to comply with the below requirements may result in an unexcused clinical absence and/or negative clinical evaluation and may result in a clinical failure.

Clinical settings include virtual, simulated, lab, hospitals, healthcare, and community facilities. Students must wear their uniform when in the clinical (hospital, lab, or facility setting). All aspects of the policy should be followed when in “dress code”. Please note that clinical site requirements as to dress code, including hair color, supersede the UTA CONHI policy.

General Guidelines

Uniforms

- **Solid navy-blue** scrubs or hospital-required color. If a clinical site requires a different scrub color, this will be communicated directly to you by the Program Manager(s) or Clinical Faculty.
 - o No flair or decorative trim is allowed on scrubs.
 - o Scrubs can be purchased anywhere, such as a scrub store, general merchandise store or online.
- **Solid navy-blue scrub jackets are permitted.** Scrub jackets with hoods or outer fleece are not permitted.
- UTA insignia patch must be sewn on the left upper sleeve of scrub top and scrub jacket. The patches can be purchased at the UTA Bookstore. (<https://www.bkstr.com/texasatarlingtonstore/home>)
- Solid-colored long or short sleeved turtleneck or crew neck T-shirts without logos or advertisements may be worn under scrub tops.
- Uniforms must be clean and not wrinkled.
- Scrubs must be loose enough to allow adequate movement for role in clinical setting/lab.

- Scrub pants may not drag on the floor and length must be below the ankle and cover socks.
- Dresses or skirts must be knee length or longer.
- Undergarments must not show when standing, sitting, leaning, or bending over.
- Head coverings must be solid-colored and without adornment or fringe. The covering may not occlude/cover the face.
- Hair clips and bands shall be functional.
- Students will refrain from wearing student uniforms to non-UTA related activities (restaurants, shopping, etc.). If uniform cannot be changed then UTA patch needs to be covered with sweater or jacket.
- Students should **not** smoke while in their uniform as the smoke can cling to clothes and be an irritant to patients.
- Students cannot consume alcoholic beverages while in uniform.

Shoes and socks

- Shoes are to be closed-toed, closed heel, clean, and made of a material that will not absorb bio-hazardous materials.
- Solid-colored hose or socks are required.

Student Identification

- The UTA Student Picture ID is to be worn above the waist and in clear view when in uniform or per clinical facility policy.
- ID badge must have "Nursing". ID badges can be obtained through [Mav Express](#) (hyperlinked)
- ID must be worn in all clinical and lab settings.
- Neck lanyards and scented badge reels are not allowed.
- No other ID should be attached to the UTA DUN ID, nor should the UTA ID be worn in settings other than clinical. The only exception to this is when a facility specific ID is required by the clinical setting.

Jewelry

- The DUN ID must be worn in all clinical and lab settings.
- Watches, wedding rings only, and small stud earrings may be worn. Dangling or hoop earrings are prohibited.
- Dangling necklaces and bracelets are not permitted. Only Medic alert necklaces/bracelets are permitted to be worn during clinical/lab.
- No body piercing jewelry are permitted, except for stud earrings as noted above. Nose piercing jewelry must be removed. The piercing should be covered, or a clear spacer used.
- Tattoos may be visible depending on facility policies.
- Students must have a watch with a second hand.
 - If using a smart watch, the second hand must be visible for 75 seconds without needing to be 'awakened' with movement of the wrist.

Hair

- During patient care, hair must be kept from falling forward into face or over the shoulder as an infection control measure. Shoulder length hair or longer must be pulled back behind the ears and off the neck in a ponytail or other contained style during patient care.
- If present, facial hair/moustache and beards must be neatly trimmed.
- Hair must be of a natural hair color.

Nails

- Nails are to be clean, groomed, and cut to the tip of the finger.
- Artificial nails, fingernail jewelry, polish, and gels are prohibited in the clinical setting.

Other

- Students should be aware of the impact body odors can have on patient health and conduct hygiene accordingly.
- No perfume, cologne, after shave, essential oils, or scented lotions are to be worn.
- Chewing gum must be avoided during patient care activities.
- Cell phones, tablets, and other such technology shall be used only out of direct patient care areas or per clinical facility policy

Pre- or Post-clinical Experiences in the Health Care Setting

- Students may be required to attend conferences or visit the clinical areas as part of their course requirements.
- Students will wear uniform scrubs or navy scrub jacket with name badge and UTA school patch. Professional dress will be worn under the scrub jacket.
- The following items will be avoided in the clinical areas: jeans, shorts, sandals, jogging/athletic suits, t-shirts, and ball-caps.
- Students are not allowed to change from their uniform before the end of clinical, labs, or exams.
- Clinical settings requiring street clothes: Professional attire is expected.
 - o Suggested professional attire is defined as: Khakis, slacks, or skirt; button down, collared shirts/blouses, and sweaters; solid colored undershirt without design; and casual shoes as outlined previously.
 - No jeans, bare midriff, backless tops or holes or tears in clothing
- Scrubs may not be worn in areas requiring street clothes.
- Appearance must be clean and neat.
- Students in agencies where scrubs are provided should follow the above standards prior to changing into scrubs.

Professional Presentations, Ceremonies, Graduation

For workshops/seminars, ceremonies, graduation events attended by students, professional/business attire should be worn. Avoid casual clothes.

- We recognize that cultural, religious, and personal beliefs may influence individual dress choices, and we respect the right of individuals to dress in a way that reflects their values and identities. Therefore, we encourage students to express themselves through their clothing while being mindful of the potential impact on others.
- Ultimately, we ask that students use their best judgment when choosing their attire for meetings, and events. We believe that a respectful and inclusive environment is created by individuals who respect themselves, others, and the community as a whole.