

Department of Occupational Therapy

Policy 16.0. *Student Dress Code*

POLICY PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for student dress code and prepare students for transition to professional environments.

POLICY STATEMENT

Students must follow dress requirements as outlined below at all educational activities, including daily lectures, laboratory activities, fieldworks, community service and service learning.

PROCESS + PROCEDURE

1. From the first day of orientation, students are representing the Department of Occupational Therapy and the profession. Students are expected to dress in attire that appears neat and professional, thus demonstrating respect for the program, clients, and profession.
2. *Items that are considered appropriate **professional** dress include:* dress slacks, khaki-type pants, skirts and dresses no shorter than 3" above the knee when sitting, button-down shirts, blouses, collared blouses/shirts, polo shirts and shell/sweater sets. Depending on the setting, a full scrub set may also be considered professional dress.
3. *Items that are considered appropriate **casual** dress include:* Five-inch inseam or longer non-denim shorts, jeans (without rips or fraying), scrubs, OT T-shirt.
4. *Items that are considered appropriate dress for **laboratory and fieldwork** experiences specifically:* Dress requirements for lab and fieldwork will vary depending on the activities and site, and is at the discretion of the course faculty and fieldwork site to determine. Workout/gym attire may be permitted in lab by faculty if appropriate to facilitate optimal learning. Clothing should not restrict movement. Students with pierced ears should wear small stud earrings. Dangling earrings or hoops are not permitted for safety reasons during laboratory activities and fieldwork experiences. Avoidance of perfumes and after shaves is strongly recommended. Shoes should be closed toe, closed heel, non-slip, and flat heeled for safety. Fingernails should be a functional length to perform all activities. Hair should be styled in a way to allow functional engagement in all activities.
5. *Items that are considered unprofessional include:* jeans that are ripped or frayed, workout/gym attire (unless explicitly allowed by course faculty for lab), clothing that restricts movement, visible undergarments, low rise pants, strapless tops, or exposed midriffs. Clothing with logos or slogans that pertain to alcohol, drugs, sex, and sorority/fraternity parties are not professional attire and are not permitted. Individuals should pay close attention to the length of their dresses or skirts especially during any event where stage presence is possible.

6. *Additional* dress code may be required in a particular clinic or fieldwork site. It is the student's responsibility to check with the clinic for dress code requirements before attending. Fieldwork sites have the right to refuse a student for inappropriate dress.
7. Faculty have the right to have specific dress requirements for class including professional business dress for visitors, full scrub sets for clinical activities, or more casual attire for laboratory activities as examples. Please refer to individual faculty syllabi for these requirements.

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