

# Pepperdine University, College of Health Science

## Laboratory and Clinical Site Attire Policy

Pepperdine University College of Health Science has defined appropriate professional attire for students. The attire for clinical and laboratory settings, including the Pepperdine University Simulation and Skills laboratories, is listed below and aligns with similar policies for our clinical affiliates. This attire policy accommodates cultural and ethnic traditions, and emphasizes personal hygiene and patient comfort. Personal hygiene is important and student hygiene should not cause discomfort for patients or colleagues. Before entering a clinical training site, each student is responsible to determine the specific dress code or attire policy at that site.

### Policy

#### White Coat/Scrubs & Name Badge

- Unless specifically instructed otherwise at the clinical site,
  - students in the Speech Language Pathology and Physician Assistant programs are required to wear a clean, short white coat.
  - students in the nursing programs are required to wear Pepperdine approved scrubs.
- All white coats and scrubs must be embroidered with the name of the appropriate Pepperdine University School.
- An identification/name badge is also required and must always be visible.

#### Clinical and Academic Attire

- Personal attire should be clean and businesslike.
- Professional dress may include the following: collared shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, blouses, vests and sports coats or blazers, dress slacks, skirts, dresses, or other knee-length garments.
- No jeans or cargo pants, or shorts. Exceptions for shorts and other attire will be granted for physical examination laboratories. Students should consult their program's Student Handbook for more details.
- Leggings can be worn with skirts, dresses, or knee-length garments.
- Necklines, hemlines, and fit should be conservative; skirts, dresses, and knee-length garments should be at or just above the knee. No bare midriff.
- Shoes must be OSHA standard closed-toe footwear. Shoes must be clean.
- Head coverings are not allowed, except for religious or medical reasons.
- Clean sneakers are acceptable only when wearing scrubs.
- Nails should be natural, short and clean.
- Perfume or cologne should not be worn in any clinical setting.
- Facial hair must be neatly groomed and trimmed. Beards may be restricted if they interfere with the proper use of personal protective equipment

- Necklaces, bracelets, hoop or dangling earrings are not permitted. All other jewelry must comply with the requirements of the care environment.
- Facial piercings and other visible body jewelry must be covered or removed. Typical hospital policies require that most body piercings be limited, covered, or removed to support infection control, ensure patient and clinical safety, and maintain a professional image.
- All visible tattoos must be covered.
- Many clinical sites require hair color to be limited to naturally occurring colors, i.e., blonde, brown, black and red. Pepperdine recommends students adhere to this guidance in preparation for clinical placements.

### Scrubs

- Scrubs are permitted in all settings, including academic, laboratory, and clinical.
- Scrubs are to be changed daily and immediately when soiled. Solid colored white, gray, or orange long-sleeve t-shirts may be worn under scrub tops. Otherwise, street clothing should not be visible under scrubs.
- Scrubs should be changed in appropriate changing locations.
- Students must wear Pepperdine University approved scrubs unless otherwise instructed by the policy/guidelines of the clinical site.

### Conduct statement

Unacceptable attire will result in the supervising faculty addressing the matter with the student. The clinical site retains the authority to refuse the student access to the learning experience based on inappropriate attire. Failure to comply with the dress guidelines may be considered a lapse in professionalism and may result in consequences for the student under the College of Health Science Professionalism Policy.