

University of Ottawa  
School of Nursing

**Dress code for nursing students**

**INTRODUCTION**

- In keeping with the safety regulations of the University of Ottawa, nursing students must dress in a manner that protects patients, staff and the environment against the risk of infections related to the transmission of omnipresent micro-organisms in the environment.

**POLICY**

- All nursing students will dress in a manner that portrays a professional image.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Uniforms are mandatory for all hospital clinical rotations, during nursing labs and at the simulation center.
- Uniforms must be cleaned after each use.
- Uniforms and shoes must only be worn during clinical and lab settings, in order to prevent the transmission of infections.
- In accordance with the Human Rights Code, any student who believes an accommodation on the basis of race, religion, ethnic origin, or disability must discuss the case with the coordinator.

**PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

- The University of Ottawa school photo identification card must be worn at all clinical settings. It is recommended that the ID card be worn above the waist and visible at all times.

**UNIFORM**

- The uniform must be short-sleeved. Students are permitted to layer sleeveless or ¾ arm length shirts under the uniform. Long sleeve shirts are not permitted.
- The uniform must be coordinated solid or prints. White nursing warm up jackets are permitted. However must be removed prior to direct care. Sweater or 'hoodies' are not permitted.
- Under garments must be discreet and non-visible.

## **SHOES**

- For safety reasons, shoes providing support, comfort and protection against injuries are mandatory during clinicals and labs.
- A dedicated pair of footwear is recommended for clinical areas with direct patient contact. (The footwear should NOT to be worn outside the clinical setting)
- The running shoe (without mesh) or the nursing shoe must be completely closed front and back with flat heels. Shoes must be cleaned regularly.
- \*Shoes prohibited in clinical and in lab: crocs, sandals, boots or high heels.

## **HAIR**

- Hair will be worn in such a way that it does not come in contact with the patient or obscure vision.
- Shoulder length or longer hair must be pulled back and secured away from the face.
- The face must be clean shaven. Moustaches or beards are permitted but must be neatly trimmed.

## **FINGERNAILS**

Nails must be kept clean and short.

Clear, fresh and kept polish is permitted. Worn or chipped polish must be removed.

Artificial nails or nail enhancements are not permitted.

## **PERFUME AND SCENTED HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

These products can cause nausea, vomiting, asthma attacks and other symptoms, for this reason it is not permitted. The use of strong scented aftershave, hair and skin products must be avoided.

## **JEWELLERY**

Hand jewelry must be minimal and conservative, limited to smooth bands and a watch.

No large dangling hoops, earrings or chains are permitted for safety reasons.

Body piercings must be tight to the body, clean and not present a source of entanglement.

Piercings must not be excessive.

## **TATTOOS**

Small and discrete tattoos can be exposed.

Large tattoos: must be covered during clinical hours.

**SKIN**

Any open sores, wounds or infections must be covered.

**DRESS CODE FOR COMMUNITY PRACTICE AND SCHOOLS**

- Appropriate dress for community experiences is unique to the placement. Students therefore, must consult with the clinical instructor and organization to discuss required dress.
- A conservative casual business style that is respectful of cultural sensitivities is required at all community and non-patient contact settings.
- When in the hospital setting for non-patient contact activities, (i.e. orientation, patient assignment, research), students are required to wear business attire, a white warm up jacket and proper identification.
- Work-out clothes, yoga pants, denim jeans, mini-skirts, shorts, plunging neck-lines, tight fitting, revealing slits, cropped or tank shirts, tank tops and leggings are not considered appropriate.

**CONCLUSION**

The following uniform and dress code guidelines apply to clinical settings and lab time.

**Note:** When the clinical agency policy contradicts the University of Ottawa policy, the clinical agency policy takes precedence.

*Approved at the SON Collaborative Undergraduate Committee – November 2011*