

## Medical Student Dress Code Policy

Approved date: May 6, 2016

Effective date: June 29, 2015

Revised: November 2, 2016; November 29, 2016

### I. Purpose:

Students have freedom of choice in how they dress. However, when students are functioning as medical professionals, with either clinical patients or simulated patients, or in-classroom in non-clinical settings, dress must be appropriate and professional. A professional image increases credibility and safety while fostering patient trust, respect and confidence. Non-adherence to the dress code can have negative effects on patient care and could diminish the reputation of the medical school, as well affiliated hospitals and clinics. Specific questions regarding these guidelines should first be addressed with the appropriate clerkship coordinator or course director.

### II. Definitions:

#### *Professional Attire*

Professional attire is required at all times in clinical, patient care settings and MAY BE required for identified activities in non-patient care settings. Professional attire refers to appropriate business attire, as described by the following, including, but not limited to:

- slacks (no cargo pants or jeans)
- dress shirts/blouses
- skirts or dresses with a hemline no higher than three inches above the knee
- no plunging necklines
- no midriff exposure
- jewelry that does not interfere with patient care
- dress shoes (closed-toe and non-porous when participating in patient care).

#### *Casual Attire in the Classroom Setting*

In addition to professional attire the following items are **also** acceptable in the classroom setting:

- clean and tidy denim pants (jeans) and skirts
- Capri pants or shorts (excluding short shorts)
- Athletic shoes that are clean and in good repair.

#### *Personal Hygiene*

Refers to cleanliness, including but not limited to:

- bathing/showering
- shaving
- combing of hair
- trimming/cleaning of fingernails.

### III. Policy:

It is the responsibility of each medical student to be neat, clean and appropriately attired while attending the College of Medicine. Dress code and professional appearance standards for medical students are as follows:

### **Dress**

- Professional attire is required in all clinical, patient care and simulated patient care settings, or when otherwise designated by course or clerkship directors.
- In patient care settings, clothing such as miniskirts, shorts, tank tops\*, Spandex, leggings, midriff shirts and low-rise slacks that show body parts are not permitted. Clothing must fit so that inappropriate exposure does not occur during normal work activities.
- In classroom settings, attire such as miniskirts, short shorts, midriff shirts, and low-rise slacks that show body parts are not permitted. Clothing must fit so that inappropriate exposure does not occur.
- White coats should be worn in patient care settings, as deemed appropriate, and appear clean, neat, and regularly laundered for infectious control.
- All readily coverable tattoos should be appropriately concealed so as not to be visible.  
*\*Tank tops are allowed if a coat or jacket is worn over them as the outer garment.*

### **Hygiene**

#### **Applicable to all settings:**

- Hair must be clean, combed and neatly trimmed or arranged to conform to the safety requirements of the specific work area.
- Sideburns, moustaches and beards must be neatly trimmed; a beard hood may be required in certain areas.
- In keeping with professionally appropriate attire, extreme hair colors including but not limited to yellow, green, pink, purple, or blue are not permitted.
- Long or artificial fingernails are prohibited when providing direct patient care.
- Body and hair cleanliness is mandatory. Odors which may interfere with the health of the patient are not permitted. This includes heavily scented colognes, perfumes, body lotions, and cigarette smoke odor.

### **Jewelry**

#### **In clinical, patient care settings:**

- Earrings which dangle more than one inch from the ear lobe may not be worn.
- Barbells or chains that stretch between holes and gauges larger than 6 (4.1 mm) are not permitted.
- Visible body piercing other than ears is prohibited.

### **IV. Consequences for Medical Student Dress Code Violation:**

If a medical student reports to the classroom, service or clinic improperly dressed or groomed, his/her faculty director may instruct the medical student to return home to make appropriate changes.

- 1<sup>st</sup> violation: verbal warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> violation: written warning

- 3<sup>rd</sup> violation: a reduction in the student's professionalism grade for the block/course

Exceptions to this policy may be made based on a medical student's religious beliefs, disability, medical condition or other compelling reasons.

## **V. Accreditation Standards:**

### *LCME Accreditation Standard:*

#### 3.5 Learning Environment/Professionalism

A medical school ensures that the learning environment of its medical education program is conducive to the ongoing development of explicit and appropriate professional behaviors in its medical students, faculty, and staff at all locations and is one in which all individuals are treated with respect. The medical school and its clinical affiliates share the responsibility for periodic evaluation of the learning environment in order to identify positive and negative influences on the maintenance of professional standards, develop and conduct appropriate strategies to enhance positive and mitigate negative influences, and identify and promptly correct violations of professional standards.

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