

Department of Physical Therapy Student Dress Code

Policy Purpose

To provide guidelines for student dress code

Policy Statement

Students must follow professional dress requirements at all educational activities, including daily lectures, laboratory activities, clinical rotations, community service, and service learning.

Process and Procedure

1. From the first day of orientation, students are representing the Department of Physical 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. Students **MUST** wear their AU issued identification badge indicating student status at all times.
3. **Items that are considered professional include:** dress slacks, top-of-the-knee length or longer skirts, top-of-the-knee length or longer khaki shorts (or other color), top-of-the-knee length or longer dresses, dress jeans, button-down blouses/shirts, collared blouses/shirts, and polo shirts.
4. **Items that are considered unprofessional include:** jeans that are ripped, workout/gym attire, oversized clothing, visible undergarments, low rise pants, strapless tops, or exposed midriffs. Clothing with logos or slogans that pertain to alcohol, sex, and sorority/fraternity parties are not professional attire and are not permitted. Students should pay close attention to the length of their shorts and dresses.
5. **During laboratory experiences**, students are required to wear appropriate clothing for the activity that day. Students may be required to expose different areas of their skin. Shorts must be worn during laboratory when the lower extremity must be exposed. Students should be properly covered during class breaks when moving beyond the lab space. Faculty have the right to require specific dress during laboratory experiences.
6. **For all patient encounters to include community clinical immersion experiences, clinical rotations, lab practical examinations and OSCEs specifically:** Students with pierced ears should wear small stud earrings. Dangling earrings or hoops are not permitted for safety reasons during laboratory activities and clinical experiences. No more than one ring per hand. Body piercing jewelry will only be worn in the ear. No other areas of the body should be visible with body piercing jewelry. All visible tattoos must be covered. Avoidance of perfumes and after shaves is strongly recommended. Shoes should be closed toe, closed heel, non-slip, and flat heeled for safety. Artificial fingernails are not allowed and natural tips must be groomed to less than ¼ inch long. Hair must be neat and clean; hair below the shoulders must be pulled back. Extreme variations of hairstyle and hair color are not permitted. Clothing should not restrict movement. Scrubs or causal dress for laboratory and clinical experiences may be appropriate and is at the discretion of the course faculty and clinical site to determine. Lab coats should be available at all times to wear when going into clinical areas requiring professional attire.
7. Students are expected to conform to the dress code of the clinical facility. If the clinical facility does not provide a dress code, students are expected to conform to the AU DPT program dress code as

described in the Student Handbook. The AU DPT policy is the minimum standard for all clinical rotations. Clinical sites may have additional dress code requirements which must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to check with the clinic for dress code requirements before attending. Clinical sites have the right to refuse a student for inappropriate dress.

8. Faculty have the right to have specific dress requirements for class including professional business dress and removal of jewelry. Please refer to individual faculty syllabi for these requirements.

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