



**Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science**  
"A Private University with a Public Mission"

**DRESS CODE POLICY**

**POLICY: # 313.5c**

**Supersedes: N/A**

**Issuing Officer:** Dean, College of Medicine  
**Responsible Office:** Office of Medical Education  
**Effective Date:** 10/24/23  
**Next Review Date:** 10/24/26

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**I. PURPOSE:**

*Medical students are representatives of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) and the College of Medicine (COM). The CDU COM dress code policy was created to describe the professional dress expectations for students while training. It is a general overview of appropriate attire to convey professionalism in and outside of the classroom. Please be aware that these recommendations are not all inclusive.*

*Wearing appropriate attire projects credibility and ensures safety in the various settings where medical students will work throughout their medical school tenure. Please be aware that no dress code can cover all scenarios. It is our intent to guide students when making choices and we encourage them to use their judgement.*

**II. POLICY STATEMENT:**

*All medical students must always wear CDU ID badges, visibly, above the waist, along with the required badges issued at clinical sites.*

*Scrubs are appropriate for lectures and some hospital settings such as urgent care and emergency departments. If not wearing scrubs, casual attire is appropriate for lectures, however, business casual attire is recommended for hospital settings such as clinic. We encourage students to adhere to these guidelines in clinic, even when residents or other senior trainees may not, as they represent CDU COM*

*in these situations. Medical students should wear professional business attire for all simulated and authentic patient encounters*

### **III. POLICY:**

#### ***Appropriate Dress for the Classroom Setting Includes:***

- *Hygiene: Good personal hygiene is expected. Body odor, smoke, etc. should not be detectable.*
- *Personal Grooming: Hair is to be neatly groomed and clean.*
- *Headwear: Avoid wearing any headwear inside any CDU or affiliate facility. Headwear that are of medical, religious, or cultural significance are permitted.*
- *Nail Length: Nails should be cleaned and trimmed at a length that does not 1.) interfere with patient care and 2.) places the patient or student at risk.*
- *Clothing Condition: Clothing should be without vulgarities, visible damage, such as rips, tears, or frayed edges. Clothing should cover undergarments. Revealing attire compromises professionalism. Select clothing that allows for comfortable and unrestricted movement. Button-down shirts (with or without ties) and professional tops or blouses, encouraging a professional appearance.*
- *Accessories: Jewelry should be minimal.*
- *Exercise Attire: Refrain from wearing tight fitting or revealing exercise attire.*
- *Bottoms: Choose from a variety of appropriate options, including pants, slacks, khakis, skirts, or dresses. Jeans and shorts may be worn; however, legs should be covered to the knee.*
- *Footwear: Dress shoes with a low or flat heel for safety and comfort. Avoid open-toed shoes, flip-flops, or porous footwear to prevent foot injury.*

#### ***Appropriate Dress for the Clinical Setting (and when interacting with Standardized Patients):***

- *Hygiene: Good personal hygiene is expected. Body odor, smoke, etc. should not be detectable.*
- *Personal Grooming: Ensure that hair is well-kept and clean.*
- *Headwear: Avoid wearing hats or bandanas inside any CDU or affiliate facility (except for when headwear is a part of religious attire).*
- *Nail Length: Fingernails must be kept clean, well-manicured, and trimmed at a length that does not interfere with patient care or personal safety.*
- *Clothing Condition: Choose from a variety of appropriate options that are neither tight fitting nor of a length that is revealing when sitting or engaging in physical activity such as sitting with a patient or bending over when performing a physical examination. These can include slacks, khakis, skirts, or dresses. Skirts should be of a length to ensure coverage of thighs to the knee for a modest appearance.*
- *Accessories: Jewelry should be minimal.*
- *Perfume/Cologne: should be worn with some restraint as colleagues, employees and patients may be allergic to these substances.*
- *Tattoos: should be reasonably covered except for those with cultural or religious significance.*
- *Exercise Attire: Refrain from wearing exercise attire.*
- *Bottoms: Choose from a variety of appropriate options, including pants, slacks, khakis, skirts, or dresses.*
- *Footwear: Dress shoes with a low or flat heel for safety and comfort. Avoid open-toed shoes, flip-flops, or porous footwear to prevent foot injury.*
- *Always make sure to review and follow the dress code policy at the medical clinics and hospitals where you rotate/visit preceptors as they may differ from the CDU Dress Code Policy.*

**Violations:**

Violations of the student dress code policy may be considered a breach of professional standards expectations. If a medical student reports to the classroom, service or clinic improperly dressed or groomed, the medical student course/clerkship director may instruct the student to return home to make appropriate changes.

**IV. APPLICABILITY:**

The faculty, students, and staff of the CDU COM are responsible for knowing this policy and its procedures.

**V. DEFINITIONS:**

Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee (EPCC) is the committee charged to represent the faculty to oversee the medical education program as a whole and has responsibility for the overall design, management, integration, evaluation, and enhancement of a coherent and coordinated medical curriculum.

**VI. RELATED POLICIES:**

No related policies

**VII. RELATED LINKS:**

- LCME Standards, Publications, & Notification [Forms](#)
- *Understanding Patient Preference for Physician Attire: A cross-sectional observational student of 10 academic medical centers in the USA*, Petrilli CM, Saint S, Jennings JJ, <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/8/5/e021239>
- *Scrubs*. (2020, April). In Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrubs\\_\(clothing\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrubs_(clothing))
- USC University of Southern California Keck SOM [Policy](#)

**VIII. POLICY HISTORY:**

Review Dates:	Change Description:
10/24/23	New policy approved by the EPCC on 10/24/23.
10/3/24	Policy reviewed by CDU Policy Committee – no conflict with university policies.