

## Appearance Standards

The graduate faculty of the College, our partner clinical agencies, and the clients we serve expect that students present a professional, well-groomed appearance that reflects the nature of the program, profession, and facility. Safety and cultural awareness are also vitally important to consider in standards of appearance. Both faculty and students are to follow both the College of Nursing standards, and any additional standards of the clinical agencies to which they are assigned, which may be more stringent. Certain faculty, agencies, or specific units may establish additional appearance standards to those listed below.

Personal cleanliness and hygiene are essential both to portray a professional appearance, and to safeguard the health of clients, agency staff, and other students. All clothing worn should “fit” the individual and not be too tight or overly expose shoulders, chest or abdomen. Appropriate attire includes slacks or skirts (no blue jeans), belts if consistent with the pants/dress (belt loops), blouse or shirt that permits modesty in the performance of expected clinical activities and clean shoes with closed heel and toe, and neutral solid color socks. Student/ICN name tags are required at all times students are in clinical sites. Clean white lab coats are optional for student use and should be consistent with clinical site practice. Deviations from this standard will be considered when consistent with dress standards at the clinical site but must be approved PRIOR to student modification. It is the responsibility of the student to discuss alternative dress standards with their assigned clinical faculty.

Hygiene maintenance also requires attention to odors. Students are not to wear perfume, cologne, or aftershave in the clinical setting, as it is offensive and may provoke sensitivity reactions in patients and others. Students should also be cognizant of body odor and bad breath, and take measures to avoid both. Students who smoke should have no detectable odor of smoke when in clinical setting.

- Hair

Hairstyles for men and women must be neat and clean. Beards and mustaches must be neatly trimmed. When in contact with health clients, long hair must be pulled back and fastened by a clip or elastic band so that it does not fall forward over the shoulders or face. In clinical situations that require covering of hair, such standards will be followed.

- Jewelry

Two small earrings per ear are allowed. They should not be hoops or otherwise prone to being pulled or to catch on objects. No other piercing should be visible during clinical experiences. Facial and mouth jewelry are not to be worn in the

clinical setting at any time. This includes, but is not limited to, rings or studs of eyebrows, nose, lips, and tongue.

Additional jewelry should not be excessive. A watch and one or two small rings are acceptable. Thought must be given as to whether the setting of the ring may scratch or otherwise injure patients, or if it may harbor bacteria. In some settings students may be requested to remove rings for safety concerns.

- Nails

Artificial nails are not permitted during direct contact with health clients in any clinical setting. This includes wraps, inlays, decals, and artificial nails. Natural nails are to be clean and less than one-quarter inch beyond the fingertip when in contact with health clients. Nail polish, if worn, must be clear in color and not chipped or cracked.

- Body Art

Tattoos or other body art must be covered as much as possible in the clinical setting.

- Other

Excessive makeup is not acceptable and gum chewing is not permitted in the clinical setting.

Reviewed and recommended for approval at FNP Grad Committee mtg 15 NOV 06