Policy Title: Student Attire for Clinical Settings

Background
The faculty of The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston believe that the student, as a representative of the School, should have a professional appearance consistent with infection control, safety, and patient comfort guidelines. To that end, an official School uniform has been selected to be worn in the clinical setting.

Policy
A. Uniforms:
1. Students must wear attire designated by the faculty of the School. The uniform may be purchased at the UT Bookstore or at any uniform store. The female student uniform consists of a short white lab jacket, a navy short sleeve blouse, a navy a-line skirt or plain navy pants. Navy uniform dresses are acceptable. The male student uniform consists of a short, white lab jacket, a navy short sleeve shirt, and plain navy pants. Lab jacket while in uniform is optional. The uniform should be clean at all times. The uniform material should be a polyester-cotton blend or cotton. White or navy T-shirts or turtlenecks may be worn for warmth or comfort underneath the scrub top. Note also that pants must cover all undergarments completely and must cover the student’s midriff or waist area by extending under the blouse/shirt or allowing the blouse/shirt to be tucked in.
2. Hem length of the skirt may be from 1" above to 1" below the knee.
3. Students must purchase at least one complete set of uniforms.
4. Students will wear the lab jacket (if required) at all times when in the hospital to complete their pre-clinical work-up. No shorts, jeans, sneakers, or sandals are permitted during these times.
5. Students who are pregnant will wear a navy maternity nursing uniform during clinical experiences.
6. Individual clinical agencies or faculty may require attire different from the school uniform. Personal appearance must be professional. A lab jacket may be worn as appropriate.
7. Navy or black sweaters without hoods may also be worn, but the student’s name pin must be visible.

B. Name Pin, School Emblem and I.D. Badge:
1. An orange and white emblem bearing the seal of The University of Texas will be worn on the left breast pocket of the lab jacket and the blouse/shirt.
2. Orange name pins (available at the U.T. Bookstore) with white lettering will be worn on the upper left portion of the uniform or lab jacket above the patch. The format for the pin will be: Student’s first and last name on the first line and “UT Nursing Student” on the second line.
3. The student I.D. badge (provided by the School) must be worn at all times.
4. The I.D. badge and emblem are to be worn on the lab coat in the same way as on the uniform when in the hospital for pre-clinical work-up.

C. Shoes and Hose:
When in the clinical area, students are to wear shoes that meet the facility’s requirements. Do not wear shoes that are open-toed, backless, plat-formed, or high-heeled. No athletic shoes are permitted.
D. Hair:
   1. Hair must be neatly groomed and be worn so that it does not interfere with performance of clinical duties. ALL students with shoulder length hair should tie their hair back in keeping with the facility’s requirements. There will be no large bows, ribbons, or clips worn in the hair.
   2. Facial hair should be short and neatly groomed.

E. Nails:
   Nails should be short, neatly groomed, unpolished, and will be at a length that will not interfere with nursing functions. Fake nails are not allowed.

F. Piercings/Tattoos:
   Adornments such as body piercing jewelry and tattoos must comply with hospital dress codes. Visible tattoos must be covered. Piercing jewelry, with the exception of small earrings (one/ear) should be removed.

G. Jewelry:
   When in the clinical area, because of the potential for spread of infection and injury to client and/or student, it is recommended that jewelry be kept to a minimum.
   1. Earrings (if worn) should be small stud earrings. The earrings should not go below the bottom of the ear lobe. No dangling earrings are allowed.
   2. Only wedding sets or plain-bands rings are allowed.
   3. Wrist or ankle bracelets should not be worn in the clinical area.

H. Perfume or aftershave should not be worn in the clinical area.

I. Equipment
   Students will need to purchase a stethoscope, a watch with a second hand, bandage scissors, penlight, and safety goggles to use in the clinical area.

J. Other
   1. "Fanny packs" (if worn) should be of a size that does not interfere with performance of clinical duties and must be black, navy or white in color.
   2. Do not wear scarves, neckties, or heavy jewelry around your neck.
   3. Any other dress code requirements outlined by the clinical agency must be followed.

Non-compliance with this policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action by the clinical faculty, which may include, but not limited to a verbal warning, dismissal from the clinical agency, and/or receiving a grade of zero (0) for that day.