

Dress Code for USA Whiddon COM Medical Students

1. Purpose

University of South Alabama Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine (Whiddon COM) M.D. students are expected to maintain standards of professional dress in all educational and clinical learning environments while participating within campus, the USA Health system and at non-USA Health facilities. A professional appearance is one that contributes to a positive, respectful, and safe environment for patients, staff, and the public.

2. Applicability

This policy applies to all Whiddon COM M.D. students (hereafter referred to as medical students) participating in on campus classroom activities, small group learning sessions, Clinical skills, CLINIC assignments, clinical clerkships and courses at USA Health hospitals and clinics, and clerkship and course assignments within the community. Recommendations for dress during labs is provided separately.

3. Definitions

Classroom: Activities, including but not limited to, lecture and small groups held in any facility located on the USA campus properties.

Educational and clinical learning environments: USA campus and professional buildings, including but not limited to, the Simulation Lab, property designated as part of USA Health hospitals and clinics, USA Health adjunct faculty clinics, and community healthcare locations to which a student is assigned for completion of curricular assignments.

Scrub attire: The official scrub color for the medical students is the steel grey Landau color. Students may choose differing styles and brands of scrubs as long as they closely match this color.

White coats: White coats should be long-sleeved short white coats. After the M2 year, the white coats will bear the student physician badge.

4. Policy Guidelines

4.1 Dress code for the classroom

Casual clothing, business attire, and scrub attire may be worn in the classroom setting.

4.2 Dress code for the Anatomy lab

Comfortable clothing including scrubs which allows physical movement required for dissections is suggested in conjunction with closed toe shoes and gloves.

4.3 Dress code for the Educational and Clinical Learning Environments

4.3.1 While in these environments, medical students should be dressed in business or scrub attire with white coat, the medical student physician badge displayed above the waist, and closed toe, non-mesh shoes. White, gray or black crew neck short-sleeved and long-sleeved t-shirts may be worn beneath the scrub tops during all clerkships and courses. White, gray or black crew neck short-sleeved t-shirts only may be worn beneath the scrub tops during surgical, obstetrical, and gynecological clerkships and courses. Adherence to this policy also includes attire that, in the sole discretion of the Whiddon COM, is neat, clean, and non-controversial in manner.

4.3.2 Business attire includes the following: dress pants, khakis, dress shirts, dresses and skirts with a mid-thigh when seated length, modest cut blouses, and closed toe shoes.

4.3.3 Radical departure from conventional dress or grooming, in the sole discretion of the Whiddon COM, is not permitted. Appearing in these environments in clothing and/or with hairstyles or hair coloring that results in distraction for others, including employees, patients, other students, visitors, or guests, or disruption of the work flow within the environment, in the sole discretion of the Whiddon COM, could result in a change of duty assignment.

4.3.4 Hair must be worn in such a way as to not interfere with the ability to provide patient care. When providing direct patient care, hair longer than shoulder length must be contained.

4.3.5 Jewelry should be professional in appearance and should not interfere with patient examinations or procedures. If body piercings in the mouth and tongue interfere with the student's ability to communicate with the patient, the student may be asked to remove them during the assigned curricular time.

4.3.6 Medical Students should refrain from wearing heavily scented lotions, fragrances and colognes.

4.3.7 All medical students must follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended guidelines for hand hygiene to prevent transmission of microorganisms. The following are prohibited for students with direct or potentially direct patient contact:

1. All artificial nails
2. All nail extenders
3. Natural nails longer than 0.25 inch in length
4. All nail polish in surgical and procedural areas

4.3.8 Dress and head coverings associated with professional, medical, and/or religious rationales or those required to be worn for reasons related to practice or Department of Public regulations are permitted. Cloth head coverings are allowed in the operating room in accordance with the following stipulations:

1. All hair on the head or face must be covered upon entering the operating room.
2. Cloth head coverings should be made of non-linting material composed of 50-60% cotton and 40-50% polyester.
3. Cloth head coverings must be laundered daily and should not be worn outside the facility.

4.3.9 Tattoos may be visible if the images or words, in the sole discretion of the Whiddon COM, do not convey violence, discrimination, profanity or sexually explicit content. Tattoos containing such messages must be covered.

4.3.10 Medical students may be subject to additional policies specific to their assigned sites and should adhere to those standards.

5. Procedure

This policy applies to all Whiddon COM M.D. students as outlined after matriculation.

6. Enforcement

Reports of deviations from the policy will be routed to the Office of Student Affairs for evaluation. If deviation from the policy is found, this could be viewed as a lack of professionalism and outcomes could include but are not limited to verbal discussions, change in duty assignment, filing of a Physicianship Early Concern Note, or a report to the Student Promotions and Evaluations Committee (SPEC). If a student is referred to the SPEC, the SPEC policies and procedures will be followed.

7. Related Documents

[Link to SPEC policy:](#)