

**POLICY TITLE**

UNC Physician Assistant Studies Classroom and Clinical Setting Attire Policy

**PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy advises students regarding attire in the classroom and clinical setting.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE**

The Academic Excellence Committee shall review this document within each even-numbered fiscal year.

**ARC-PA REFERENCE(S)**

A3.02: The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply its policies and practices to all students.

B2.19 The curriculum *must* include instruction in:

- c) professional conduct

**DEFINITION(S):**

N/A

**POLICY**

Student professional attire and conduct should, at all times, reflect the dignity and standards of the medical profession. It is important that physician assistant students attire in a manner that is respectful to their professors, classmates, patients, and other interprofessional and administrative colleagues. The UNC Division of Physician Assistant Studies along with the UNC School of Medicine and Department of Health Sciences has the authority to set attire requirements for students admitted into the program.

The UNC PA program utilizes clinical sites for student placement that may be outside of UNC Health. UNC PA students will be required to adhere to the attire standards established by external sites. Should a student have specific concerns regarding the attire policy they should discuss such concern with the Director of Clinical Education. Failure to adhere to the attire policy at a clinical site may result in the student being removed from the clinical site.

**Classroom Setting:**

In the classroom setting, all students must wear clothing that is neat, clean, and not ripped, torn, or stained. Clothing may not contain inappropriate wording, design, graphics, or pictures. Each course syllabus may outline specific requirements and attire exceptions/expectations for that particular course.

In settings that include patient contact including standardized patient encounters, clinical phase requirements (see below) will be enforced.

Whether in class or on your personal time, your personal appearance will reflect on UNC-CH Division of Physician Assistant Studies and your chosen profession as a physician assistant.

### **Clinical Setting and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs):**

#### *Identification in the Clinical Setting and OSCEs*

University of North Carolina Physician Assistant students will be clearly identified to distinguish themselves from physicians, medical students, and other health professions students and graduates. The issued name tag present according to the following:

Name, Physician Assistant Student  
UNC PA Program

Physician Assistant students will wear their UNC School of Medicine identification badge on the upper right side of the white coat. The ID badges must not be obscured or altered in any manner except as determined by clinical necessity, (e.g., special stickers for newborn nursery access).

#### *White Coats*

Physician Assistant students will wear the UNC PA Program embroidered short, white coat with an issued name tag attached and centered below the embroidered Health Sciences title on the left chest pocket while in clinical settings and during certain laboratory sessions, simulation exercises, competency evaluations and any other times as designated by the Course Director. The white coats must be clean and neat. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the clinical instructor and must be approved by the Director of Clinical Education. If wearing scrubs outside the operating area, a clean short white coat should be worn over scrubs.

#### *Scrubs*

In general, scrubs should not be worn outside of the hospital or clinic. Scrubs are expected to be clean when worn in a public area and should be covered with a white coat. The ID Badge must be worn outside the white coat. Scrubs may be worn only as delineated by individual departmental/clinical policy.

### **PROCEDURE**

Students in violation of any of the above attire policy may be asked to change into appropriate attire, and an advising meeting to discuss professionalism is required with a written warning. Students will receive an unexcused absence for class time missed as a result of a violation. A second violation will result in referral of the student to the Academic Excellence Committee for further program action to include professional probation, deceleration, or dismissal from the program.

## **PUBLISHED**

- UNC PA Program Policies and Procedures web page: <https://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/unc-pa/students/policies-procedures/>
- UNC PA Program Student Handbook
- Reviewed by Policy Review Committee and Director of Clinical Education on 22 December 2023. Final approval pending AEC review.
- Approved by Program Director 22 December 2023.