

**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Professional Dress Guidelines

Students must dress professionally.

Students must present a professional appearance during any clinical experience including visits to prepare for clinical experience in an agency, participation in observational experiences, or interviews and assessments in the community. Professional appearance includes considering jewelry, hair, cosmetics, nails, hygiene, and clothing. Students must display proper identification, including College of Nursing picture identification name badges, uniform and/or lab coat with College of Nursing monogram on the upper left chest and have the required equipment needed for clinical experiences. The ETSU identification name badge and monogrammed uniform/lab coat must only be worn during the clinical experiences, classes, and activities sponsored by the College of Nursing. (Exception: RN-BSN students are required to be in Professional Business Dress with lab coat or uniform.)

A. General Guidelines

1. Only the ETSU or agency specific student name badge should be worn in all skills lab and clinical sessions. Multiple student or employee name badges cannot be worn during ETSU clinical or community rotations. Name badges must be worn at chest level where they can be seen at all times.
2. White lab coats and scrub tops must have the CON logo monogrammed on the left chest.
3. Good personal hygiene and grooming are essential. Proper precautions must be taken to avoid odors related to foods, perfume, smoking, and/or lack of deodorant.
4. All clothing must be laundered, neat, and in good repair. Clothing must have appropriate fit and be opaque enough not to reveal undergarments.
5. No bare feet, open toed shoes, sandals, or flip flops are permitted. Heel height must be less than 2 inches. Closed toe clogs with socks are acceptable. Non-skid soles are recommended.
6. Hair and beards are expected to be clean, neat, and well groomed. Hair is to be secured away from the face and off the shoulders. Extreme hairstyles or coloration is not appropriate.
7. Nails must be well-manicured and kept short. Acrylic nails are not permitted. They harbor bacteria and increase the risk for infection transmission. Nail polish is discouraged but if worn it should be clear or light in color. Nail polish should not be chipped or cracked.
8. Tattoos must be covered.
9. Jewelry must be simple and unobtrusive. In the clinical setting, jewelry is limited to TWO pair of small earrings, simple flat rings, wedding or engagement rings, and fine neck chains.
10. Body piercings other than earrings are not to be visible.
11. Chewing gum is not permitted in clinical settings or when representing the College of Nursing at outside events.

Revised: Undergraduate Academic Standards Committee 10/20/14
Approved: Undergraduate Programs Faculty 12/12/14
CON Faculty 1/26/15

**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

B. Skills Lab Dress is worn for practice sessions held in the College of Nursing Skills Lab.

1. All clothing must be laundered, neat, and in good repair. Clothing must have appropriate fit and be opaque enough not to reveal undergarments. Sagging and/or tight-fitting clothing is not acceptable.
2. Tops are not to be low cut, backless or revealing. Tank tops are not appropriate. All tops should be of sufficient length not to expose skin on the lower abdomen/upper waist. Basic t-shirts or polo shirts work best.
3. Modest shorts (mid-thigh length), capris, pants, or jeans can be worn. Short shorts and/or skin tight shorts are not acceptable.
4. Wear comfortable shoes. Closed toed shoes with hard soles are required in the skills lab.

C. Professional Dress is worn for the following types of activities: 1) when students are representing the College of Nursing in the community, 2) any time students are at the hospital but not providing direct patient care, 3) when going to a clinical area (e.g., Operating Room) where the student will change into scrubs provided by the hospital.

1. **Male Dress:** Full length dress slacks or khakis with a collared shirt that is tucked in. Blue jeans or any other colored denim pants of any style are not acceptable. Clothes must be size appropriate as sagging or tight-fitting clothing is not acceptable.
2. **Female Dress:** Dresses with a modest neckline (no plunging necklines or spaghetti straps/sundresses) and length (minimum knee level). Skirt with modest length (minimum knee level) with a blouse. Full length dress slacks or khakis. Blue jeans or any other colored denim pants of any style are not acceptable. Clothes must be size appropriate as sagging or tight-fitting clothing is not acceptable.
3. Tops are not to be low cut, backless or revealing. The tops should be of sufficient length not to expose skin. Exposure of skin at the waist and above the knee is not acceptable
4. Shoes should have closed toes and non-slippery soles to minimize the risk of exposure and injury. Heels higher than 2 inches are not permitted. Non-skid soles are recommended.
5. A white lab coat with the CON monogram should be worn over your street clothes with the College of Nursing Name Badge clearly visible.

D. Clinical Dress is worn when providing patient care in the hospital.

1. The scrub color of the College of Nursing uniform is **ceil blue**. All scrub tops must have the CON monogram. Scrubs must be clean and free of wrinkles and provide complete coverage from the shoulders to the feet. Each scrub set (top and pants) should be purchased from the same company (Landau, Cherokee, etc.) so the colors will match. The style of the scrubs is up to the student; however, the following types of scrubs are not permitted:
 - a. Scrubs tops that expose the stomach and/or lower back. Tops must either cover the pants to the hips or be tucked inside the pants. Under no circumstances should your stomach or lower back show. Turn, squat, and bend when trying on scrubs to make sure

**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

they provide appropriate coverage with activity.

- b. Scrub pants secured only by a drawstring. Pants must be secured at the waist level – not at the hips – and stay there. Pants which are secured with an elastic waistband in addition to the drawstring are more secure.
 - c. Scrub pants which end in cuffs at the ankles. Pants should have hemmed leg openings.
2. Non-porous and continuous surface (no holes) shoes are required in all clinical facilities. Acceptable shoe colors are solid white, black, navy, or ceil blue. Neon and fluorescent colors/symbols, designs, signs and stickers are not acceptable. Clogs are acceptable if they have a completely solid top and a strap which secures around the heel. Athletic shoes are acceptable if they are made of a fluid resistant material (no woven or webbed tops). Shoes must be kept clean. Females must wear hose or socks with shoes and males must wear socks.
 3. Underwear must be worn. Choose full white or flesh colored underwear with no emblems or decorations that show through.
 4. Colognes, perfumes, and scented lotions/powders are not permitted in the clinical setting.
 5. A long sleeve or short sleeve white or navy crew neck shirt can be worn underneath the scrub top for additional warmth. The under shirt should be of sufficient thickness to be opaque. If a long sleeve shirt is worn, the cuffs must be tight enough to allow the sleeves to be pushed up and out of the way if needed. T-shirts with logos or designs are not appropriate. Thermal or silk long underwear is not appropriate as an under shirt.
 6. Lab jackets are to be worn over the scrubs for additional warmth except when providing direct patient care. Sweatshirts, hoodies, and sweaters are not appropriate and should not be worn in the clinical agency or on the clinical units.

Revised: Undergraduate Academic Standards Committee 10/20/14
Approved: Undergraduate Programs Faculty 12/12/14
CON Faculty 1/26/15