

**TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM DRESS CODE

A clinical placement dress code has been established in recognition of the fact that the mode of dress does affect the establishment of a rapport and working relationship with patients, families, and colleagues. The Tarleton State University Department of Nursing expects students to reflect professionalism and maintain high standards of appearance and grooming in the clinical setting. Clinical faculty have final judgment on the appropriateness of student attire and corrective action for dress code infractions. Students not complying with this policy will not be allowed to participate in clinical.

Clothing

Nursing students should always wear the official TSU student uniform when giving nursing care, unless a clinical faculty member specifically defines a different policy for a designated clinical unit or area (ex. psychiatry, pediatrics, OB, or community health).

I. Official TSU Nursing Program Uniform

- A. The official undergraduate nursing student uniform is white pants (or skirt) with a white top or a dress with the circular Tarleton State University Department of Nursing patch on the left sleeve. The official student uniform should be worn when giving nursing care or when entering the Nursing Skills Lab. The uniform should be clean, properly fitted, free from discoloration, and in good repair.

In some clinical settings, for example, pediatrics or obstetrics, students may wear colorful uniform tops or wear scrubs that comply with hospital rules and consistent with what is worn in the clinical agency.

- B. **Identification** - pins/patches/picture ID: Patches must be worn on uniform and lab coats. The TSU patch is to be worn centered one inch below the shoulder seam on the left sleeve of the uniform and lab coat. The patch must be securely fastened with all edges attached to the sleeve. The name pin with purple background and white lettering is to be worn on the upper left front side of the uniform at top pocket level. The TSU Student Picture ID is to be worn in a clear plastic cover above the waist and in clear view when the student is in uniform (may be clipped to a front pocket of the uniform top or attached to a lanyard). The TSU patch/pin/or ID must be worn in all clinical and lab settings.
- C. **Shoes** - White professional nursing shoes or plain white leather (all white with no colored trim) low top athletic shoes are to be worn with the white uniform. Shoes are to be closed toe, closed heel, clean and in good repair. Clog type shoes are prohibited for safety concerns.
- D. **Hosiery** - Solid white socks should be worn with pants. Solid white hose should be worn with skirts or dress style uniforms. When wearing athletic shoes with dresses, solid white socks should not be visible above the shoes.

- E. **Sweater or Scrub Jacket** - White washable sweater or scrub jacket with TSU patch centered one inch below the shoulder seam on the left sleeve may be worn with the uniform during the clinical day.
 - F. **Laboratory Coat** - Full length or thigh length lab coat will be required in some clinical areas. Full or thigh length lab coat should also be worn for infection control purposes when involved in direct patient care. For infection control purposes the lab coat should be removed upon arriving to the clinical area and donned and buttoned upon leaving the clinical area in order to cover the uniform to travel home.
- II. **Clothing for Preclinical Visits or Community Agencies.**
A white full or thigh length lab coat with the TSU patch and name pin is to be worn over street clothes (*Business Casual Attire*) when the student is in the hospital on school business other than direct patient care. When visiting some agencies where lab coats are inappropriate, students are expected to wear a blazer or sweater a part of their *Casual Business Attire*.
- A. **Casual Business Attire**
 - Shirt or blouse with collar or polo style
 - Slacks
 - Chinos or khakis – neatly pressed
 - Skirt (knee length or below)
 - Loafers, lace-up or slip-on closed toe and heel shoes – cleaned and shined.
 - B. **Inappropriate attire** including t-shirts, tank tops, jeans, shorts, skirts above the knee, tight fitting, see-through, or other suggestive clothing, flip flops, sneakers, sandals, athletic wear, leggings, bare midriffs or low-cut garments (low-cut necklines, low-cut backs, or low-rise pants) should not be worn to any clinical placement area. Clothing which exposes a bare midriff, back, chest or underwear are prohibited. With clinical uniforms, professional, or casual business attire, make-up should be moderate and fragrance should be minimal. See additional general guidelines later in this document. All clothing should be clean, wrinkle free, and in good repair.
- III. **Other Clothing** - Faculty will inform students if clothing other than that described in this document is to be worn.
- IV. **General Guidelines**
- A. **Undergarments** and/or cleavage should not show when leaning or bending over. Tee-shirts or other undergarments that are worn underneath the white uniform should be white or flesh colored, appropriately cover the breast and buttocks, and be without visible pictures, prints, logos, etc.

- B. **Jewelry** - No jewelry, with the following exceptions: (a) watch, (b) plain wedding band, (c) stud/button style or small conservative earrings, and (d) keepsakes on chains long enough to be concealed under the uniforms.
 - C. **Body piercing** - No more than two (2) studs or button style earrings per ear lobe. No other visible body piercing will be allowed (i.e., tongue, eyebrow, nose, etc). Visible piercing jewelry must be removed or covered for clinical. No exceptions.
 - D. **Body art** - No visible tattoos are allowed.
 - E. **Hair** management must conform to infection control guidelines and standards of professional appearance. Hair is to be clean, neat, and well groomed. Shoulder length hair or longer must be pulled back behind the ears and off the neck when in the clinical, learning resource, or simulation lab settings. Males are expected to be clean-shaven or with facial hair/moustache and beards neatly trimmed. Hair must be of an appropriate color (no pink, blue, striped, or excessively two toned, etc.) and should not be adorned with jewelry, bows, beads, or other materials.
 - F. **Nails** are to be clean, groomed, and manicured. Artificial nails are prohibited in the clinical setting. Nails are to be cut to the tip of the finger and groomed. Only clear nail polish may be worn. No fingernail jewelry.
- V. **Personal Habits**
- A. Makeup should be subdued.
 - B. Good personal hygiene including oral care is mandatory. Unclean, unkempt appearance, unpleasant body or breath odors, including smoke odors, are not acceptable. Daily showering/bathing and the use of deodorant are expected.
 - C. Strong scents are to be avoided, as noted above. No perfume or scented lotions are to be worn.
 - D. The uniform and lab coat are not for street attire (ex. shopping, eating in restaurants, going to activities). The TSU patch and identification pin may not be worn while working for a salary.
 - E. Eating should be confined to appropriate areas in the clinical facility.
 - F. No gum chewing while in uniform and/or in clinical areas.
 - G. Smoking and use of other tobacco products are discouraged and must be confined to designated areas. Smoke can cling to clothes and be an irritant to patients.
 - H. Personal beepers, cell phones, and other such technology shall be utilized only during breaks from patient care. Cell phones must be turned off during clinical and left in the student's purse or backpack.
 - I. Language: Polite, professional in nature. No profanity or vulgar slang.