POLICY

A University of Akron (UA) Student Radiographer’s professional image who is assigned to an affiliated Clinical Education Center (CEC) represents an important message to the patients and the families that students will come in contact with. UA Radiography students are expected to display a neat, clean, and professional appearance at all times. This policy presents general dress code guidelines and addresses the safety aspects of personal grooming and attire.

The very nature of a hospital requires cleanliness, neatness, and the promotion of good health. The Student Radiographer’s appearance is a reflection of that medical facility’s standard of care, not only to patients and visitors, but to the community. Students are expected to display the highest standard of personal conduct, good grooming, and dress standards. Student attire and appearance must be clean, tasteful, and convey a seriousness of purpose appropriate to a professional medical setting. Proper attire also contributes to both the dignity of the hospital and the student’s position as a member of our healthcare team. The following general dress code guidelines must be observed:

- The official uniform of each Clinical Education Center (CEC) must be worn at all times in the clinical setting (as dictated by the CEC). The CEC Radiology Departments associated with this program may require a distinctive uniform for easy identification. These guidelines are reflective of the department’s functions and the clinical services to be performed by the students. Uniforms that are provided by the CEC’s remain the property of that organization and must be returned along with all other CEC property at the time of graduation from the program. CEC policies may further refine these guidelines but do not replace or change the fundamental principles behind this policy.

- When attending a didactic class, Student Radiographers are not required to wear any official uniform, but are expected to dress in an appropriately clean and professional manner.

- When assigned to a CEC, the approved CEC identification badges must be worn at all times and should clearly show the student’s picture, proper name (first and last), with no stickers and no pins on the badge. The identification badge must be worn at a level above the waist and it must “face” out and be visible near the collar, breast pocket.

- From time to time, certain CEC’s may make special provision for events (e.g. Spirit Days, dress down days, etc.) and may authorize the wearing of blue jeans or other apparel that is generally not considered to be appropriate. At all times, however, the general guidelines of this policy remain in effect.
Individual accessories or items of dress may be deemed inappropriate by the program faculty and/or CEC. Violations of this policy or any CEC-specific dress code guideline may result in corrective action, up to and including termination. If in violation of a CEC dress code, a student may be asked to clock out for purposes of returning home to change into proper attire. Students will accumulate absence hours when sent home to change clothing. Students who are sent to home to change, unless otherwise instructed, are expected to return to their educational assignment within a reasonable period of time.

APPEARANCE GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines that encompass most of the Clinical Education Center’s (CEC) dress codes. However, the student’s attire must always reflect the dress code policy of your assigned CEC. This also applies to when the student starts clinical rotations at other CEC’s. Students are always responsible for wearing the appropriate attire for each CEC assignment.

Neat, clean, and business-like appearance is a mandatory requirement for all CEC. In general, clothing must not be too casual, too tight, or too short. It must be non-offensive and in keeping with customer expectations of appropriateness for a professional environment. Appropriate undergarments are to be worn at all times and must not be visible. Items in the following “Unacceptable Uniforms” list are prohibited and include examples only (the following list is not to be considered all-inclusive):

- **Acceptable Uniforms**
  - approved hospital scrubs (recommended)
  - pastel colors or floral prints
  - lab coats over a professional outfit
  - white or navy cardigan sweaters, vest, or pullovers
  - slacks, pants, or uniform bottoms are to be worn with the waistband at the waist; pants may not be pulled down so that it exposes underwear and/or skin
  - "kiddie" prints (e.g. non-scary cartoon characters, animals, etc.) are considered acceptable uniforms @ the Akron Children’s Hospital and Mahoning Valley Hospital clinical settings

- **Unacceptable Uniforms**
  - scary animals or cartoon characters
  - t-shirts, tube tops, tank tops, & halter tops (except formal camisoles), plunging necklines
  - shorts, cut-offs, and any tight, sheer (“see-through”) articles
  - logos, drawings, or wording which is political, offensive, or which disparages any group of people or any specific belief
  - garments which expose the shoulders (except for sleeveless blouses) or midriffs
  - pants too long (touching the floor) or pants too short (calf-length slacks or leggings)
  - wearing of patient gowns
  - hooded/belted shirts or sweaters, bib overalls, blue denim jeans, sweat pants, or sweat shirts
Scrub: Hospital scrubs are often distributed by each CEC but are generally reserved for performing clinical tasks in surgical and medical asepsis environments. The wearing of CEC-assigned scrubs in the Radiology Department as a general uniform is strictly determined by the CEC’s Dress Code policy.

If CEC-assigned scrubs (not personal scrubs) become soiled, the student must turn them back in to their CEC and they will re-issue the student a set of replacement scrubs. If personal scrubs become soiled while performing clinical duties, the CEC scrubs may temporarily issue the student a set of scrubs to be worn to get them home cleanly. But those scrubs must be returned within a reasonable period of time to the CEC. Scrubs furnished by a CEC remain the property of that organization and must be returned along with all other property at the time of graduation or after resignation from the program.

FEMALE RECOMMENDATIONS

Although not recommended, dresses or skirts may be worn and must have a hemline no shorter than three (3) inches above the knee and be of an appropriate fit. Attire must be non-offensive, tasteful, and discreet in keeping with customer expectations of appropriateness for a professional environment.

- Acceptable Female Attire
  - appropriate hospital scrubs (recommended)
  - lab coats over a professional outfit
  - white or neutral shades of hosiery (full length)
    - lower leg length may be worn with slacks

- Unacceptable Female Attire
  - leggings, stirrups, or spandex pants
  - black or patterned hosiery
  - brightly colored, bikini, or G-cut style undergarments that show through the outer garments
  - shorts or mini-skirts
  - dangling accessories (e.g. scarves, ties, or belts) that create unsafe conditions for the employees or patients
  - pants pulled down so that it exposes undergarments and/or skin
MALE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acceptable Male Attire
  - appropriate hospital scrubs (recommended)
  - lab coats over a professional outfit
  - dress pants with a dress shirt

- Unacceptable Male Attire:
  - rolled up sleeves
  - brightly colored, bikini, or G-cut style undergarments that show through the outer garments
  - pants pulled down so that it exposes undergarments and/or skin
  - dress ties

FOOTWEAR

Footwear must be professional and not reflective of beach wear. The Student Radiographer will be on their feet a large percentage of the day and shoes are the soundest investment that the student will make. When buying shoes, the Student Radiographer should choose shoes that are lightweight, comfortable, and easy to clean. The best thing shoes that a student can purchase are good, high quality tennis shoes.

- Acceptable Footwear
  - Tennis shoes (recommended)
  - Nursing shoes
  - Dress shoes

- Unacceptable Footwear
  - canvas, sandal, open-toe, or open-back (sling back) styles
  - shoes with flashing lights or other distracting accouterments
  - visible bare legs or feet
  - high heels or platform-style shoes

HAIR & NAILS

Hair, facial hair, and fingernails are to be neat, clean, and well groomed with colors and style that are consistent with a professional atmosphere and must not interfere with the requirements of the student’s clinical assignment. The CEC reserves the right to determine if more stringent nail/hair grooming or restrictive policies are required.

- Acceptable Grooming:
  - shoulder length hair must be tied or pulled back in some professional manner
  - braids are acceptable but the same shoulder length rules apply
  - Fingernails are to be trimmed and not longer that 1/4 inch beyond the fingertip
• Unacceptable Grooming:
  ○ Artificial nail enhancements of any kind are not to be worn. This includes, but is not limited to artificial nails, tips, wraps, appliques, acrylics, gels and any additional items applied to the nail surface

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**JEWELRY**

Jewelry (including pierced earrings) may be worn as long as there is no danger of its becoming caught in clothing, being pulled, or scratching a patient. A conservative approach recommended is that jewelry must not interfere in any way with the safe performance of a student responsibilities. Only one stud piercing no larger 1/8 inch or one 1/4 inch hoop (in addition to earrings) may be worn. Neither the UA nor the CEC are responsible for the cost of repair or replacement of jewelry lost or broken during while in the program.

• Acceptable Jewelry:
  ○ small rings or stud earrings
  ○ necklaces (must be worn inside of a student’s uniform)
  ○ watches or bracelets

• Unacceptable Jewelry:
  ○ rings that may scratch or injure patients
  ○ hoop earrings, dangling earrings, or hoop nose rings are prohibited
  ○ dangling necklaces or bracelets
  ○ facial jewelry and/or other body piercing(s) outside of the student’s uniform (this includes tongue piercing’s)
  ○ excessive amounts of jewelry

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**TATTOOS**

Tattoos (to the extent possible) are to be covered and not visible. Any tattoo that could be construed as offensive or hostile must be covered or removed.

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**SCENTED PRODUCTS**

Students must not use any scented product (e.g. perfumes, hairspray, after-shave products, colognes, etc.) as these fragrances may aggravate allergic conditions or cause discomfort to patients, visitors, and fellow staff members whose susceptibility to these odors is heightened. Patients are especially vulnerable and, based on their degree of allergy, the use of these products could create a potentially catastrophic situation.

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