

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



POLICY TITLE: <i>Dress Code for Medical Students in M1/M2</i>	APPROVAL DATE: <i>June 7, 2018</i> <i>Revised August 6, 2020</i> <i>Revised August 14, 2020</i>
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT: <i>Office of Medical Education</i>	APPLIES TO: <i>M1 & M2 Students</i>

POLICY STATEMENT

A. Attire for Activities Involving a Patient or Simulated Patient

Medical students are representatives of the College of Medicine (COM) and are expected to exhibit appropriate professionalism at all times. This professionalism extends to and includes dress appropriate to the setting. A dress code is in place to maintain a level of professionalism as students develop relationships with their patients, the public, and other members of the health professions. In all activities involving patients, simulated patients or a panel of presenters, the M1/2 medical students are to follow the **Dress Code for Medical Students in M3/4**. See below for specific details related to scrub attire.

Due to COVID, additional personal protective equipment (PPE) will be required for activities involving a patient or simulated patient until further notice. PPE following standard UCCOM protocols should be used in every clinical encounter with patients or simulated patients. Consistent with UCCOM and UC Health policy, all students must wear a mask at all times. Your mask must cover your mouth and nose. Depending on the course and the activities being conducted, students may have additional PPE requirements (e.g. face shield, gown, gloves) as noted by the course directors in their syllabus (e.g. clinical skills). Students should follow any additional PPE requirements outlined for the course.

B. Attire for Lectures (In-Person or Virtual)

Course directors will indicate the attire expected of students (e.g. professional dress casual, White Coats) in the event description on LEO. Students should follow the indicated attire on Leo for the course regardless of whether the event is held in-person or virtually. Professional dress casual includes dress pants or khakis (no shorts), dresses, skirts, dress shirts, or polo shirts. Ties are not required. Note that any in-person events will require that students wear a mask that covers the mouth and nose consistent with UCCOM and UC Health policy until further notice.

C. Scrub Attire

The University of Cincinnati Medical Center (UCMC) allows medical students access to hospital scrubs. This includes laundering of the scrubs. Medical students are expected to use these scrubs appropriately. Any student who fails to return scrubs to the hospital (e.g., leaves them in locker rooms or other inappropriate areas) or utilizes the scrubs inappropriately will have this privilege removed and will be subject to disciplinary action and/or referral to Honor Council.

Use of scrubs by M1/M2 students should essentially be limited to activities in the Gross Anatomy lab or as noted by the course directors in the syllabi of specific courses (e.g. Clinical Skills, or courses where there are interactions with patients or there are clinical interactions required). Until further notice, students will be required to wear additional PPE in the Gross Anatomy lab that includes face mask, face shield, and gloves. This additional PPE is required for scheduled dissection, self-directed learning sessions for gross anatomy, peer teaching, and anytime students enter the Gross Anatomy lab to study.

The following are some reminders of inappropriate use of scrubs.

1. Scrubs are NEVER to be worn outside the patient care area (hospital) and the Medical Center buildings.
2. Tee shirts should not be worn underneath scrubs if they extend beyond the scrub top.

3. Sweatshirts, sweaters, pullovers and hoodies are not permitted over scrubs.
4. Scrubs are not allowed in the following areas:
 - a. In the MSB/CARE/Crawley complex (except for Gross Anatomy lab or immediately preceding or following this lab).
 - b. Conferences and lectures
 - c. Meetings (e.g., Admissions Committee, EPC, etc.)
 - d. Outside of the hospital
 - e. Outpatient clinic

D. Professionalism Requirements/Policies

1. Do not chew gum when talking to patients or faculty
2. No eating or drinking in front of patients or in patient care areas
3. Never discuss patient care issues in public areas, such as cafeterias and elevators. This is a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and may lead to disciplinary action up and to including dismissal from the College of Medicine as well as civil criminal penalties.
4. Beepers and cell phones should be kept on vibrate or silent mode.
5. Consistent with UCCOM and UC Health policy, all students must wear a mask at all times. Your mask must cover your mouth and nose. If you need to eat or drink, the following is recommended: try to eat in a space with good air flow (e.g. outside or in a large open area), maintaining at least 6 feet social distance when you remove your mask to eat.

A Formative Feedback Form will be issued to a student who is in violation of the Dress Code. Egregious violations of the Dress Code may lead to further disciplinary action including but not limited to a referral to a PAC or Honor Council.