

**HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY**  
**THE PREMIER LIFE SKILLS UNIVERSITY**

**Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

## Policy - Dress Standard

**Origin Date:** October 14, 2013

**Last Evaluated:** April 2026

**Responsible Party:** Program Director

**Minimum Review Frequency:** Triennially

**Approving Body:** Principal Faculty

**DPAS Associated forms:** None

**ARC-PA Associated Standards:** N/A

### Background and Purpose

Advise students on professional demeanor in regard to dress.

### Policy Statement

#### *HPU PA Program Guidelines for Professional Dress*

Student professional dress and conduct should, at all times, reflect the dignity and standards of the medical profession. It is important that physician assistant students dress in a manner that is respectful to their professors, classmates, patients, and other interprofessional and administrative colleagues. The High Point University Department of Physician Assistant Studies and the Congdon School of Health Sciences have the authority to set dress code requirements for students admitted to the program.

The dress code at various clinical sites may be more or less rigorous than the guidelines outlined below. If the culture of a particular clinical setting supports a specific dress code that is inconsistent with the policy outlined below, the student should discuss this with a member of the clinical faculty to determine proper dress behavior for the student (see “Style” below).

#### **Classroom Setting**

Classroom attire can be most appropriately described as “business casual”.

**Men:** All shirts should have collars. 3-button polo shirts, partial zipper shirts with collars are acceptable. Shirts with other than designer logos (e.g. corporate, political, personal statement, etc.) are not permitted. T-shirts are not permitted. Shirts should be tucked in unless the style specifically prohibits this (e.g. sweater-style). All buttons except the top button should be fastened. Acceptable pant styles are khakis, dress pants, trousers and

corduroy pants. Jeans are not permitted. Shorts may be allowed on days of exceptional heat as determined by the Program Director or the Program Director's designee. Acceptable shoe styles include oxfords, lace-ups, and loafers. Sneakers, tennis shoes, sandals, flip-flops or other open-toed shoes are not permitted. Socks should be worn at all times.

**Women:** Skirts and dresses should have hemlines no more than two inches above the knees. Avoid low-cut dresses or those with high slits. Pants such as khakis, corduroy pants, linen pants or dress pants are all acceptable. Jeans are not permitted, regardless of style. Shorts may be allowed on days of exceptional heat at the discretion of the Program Director or the Program Director's designee. For the upper body, blouses, sweaters, turtlenecks, vests, and sleeveless shirts are all acceptable. No T-shirts, exposed midriffs, halter-tops or tank tops. Avoid any skin-tight clothing on both upper and lower body. Acceptable footwear choices include leather shoes, moderate heels and tasteful open-toed shoes (unless lab/patient care activities are scheduled for that day). Flip-flops and sneakers are not permitted.

Specific modifications to this dress code (e.g. for labs, clinical skills courses) are at the discretion of the course director. Students should keep appropriate changes of clothes in their lockers.

In both clinical and non-clinical settings all students should use discretion with fragrances, as patients, classmates and instructors may have allergies or sensitivities (see "Fragrance" below).

Jewelry and other adornments such as body piercing should be in good taste and consistent with policies established in clinical settings.

No clothing should be unprofessionally revealing regardless of student gender. Please consult a Principal Faculty Member if you are unsure about this.

***Whether in class or on your personal time, your personal appearance will reflect on High Point University and your chosen profession as a physician assistant.***

## **Clinical Setting**

### ***Identification in the Clinical Setting***

Proper identification must be clearly displayed identifying that the student is a HPU Physician Assistant student. HPU PA student ID badges must be worn at all times. The Professional ID badge must be worn so that it is easily readable by patients and hospital/clinic personnel. 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***

Student-style white coats are required for clinical settings and during certain laboratory sessions, simulation exercises, competency evaluations and any other times as designated by the Course Director; they must be clean and neat. They will possess the HPU/DPAS patch. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the clinical preceptor and must be approved by the Director of Clinical Education. If wearing scrubs outside the operating area, a clean 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.

### ***Shoes***

Footwear must be clean, in good condition, and appropriate. For safety reasons, open-toed shoes and sandals are not allowed in patient care areas or designated laboratory components of didactic courses.

### ***Style***

No sweatshirts or shirts with messages, lettering or logos (except HPU/Panther) are permitted. No shorts, cut-offs, etc. *Jeans are not to be worn even if it is clinic policy to allow providers to wear jeans!* A tie is recommended for men, unless described as optional in a specific policy for that clinical setting.

### ***Fragrance***

Wearing of colognes, perfumes or scented lotions in clinical settings is not permitted as patients may be sensitive to fragrances.

### ***Hands***

Fingernails must be clean and short to allow for proper hand hygiene, use of instruments, prevention of glove puncture and injury to the patient. Artificial nails and decorative nail designs are prohibited. Some clinic and hospital settings do not permit colored polish.

### ***Hygiene***

Daily hygiene must include personal cleanliness, including the use of deodorant. Clothing should be clean, pressed, and in good condition, including the white coat.

### ***Hair***

Mustaches, hair longer than chin length, and beards must be clean and well-trimmed. Students with long hair who participate in patient care should wear their hair tied back to avoid interfering with the performance of procedures or having hair come into contact with patients.

### ***Jewelry***

Jewelry should not be functionally restrictive or excessive. Students should avoid wearing long or dangling earrings for their own and for patient safety. There should be no visible jewelry in body piercings with the exception of earrings. Students with nostril piercings may wear a small stud. In the case of religious requirement, certain other piercings may be acceptable. Please consult the Program Director or the Program Director's designee if you have a religious requirement for piercings. No other facial jewelry (e.g., tongue, eyebrow piercings, etc.) is allowed.

### ***Tattoos***

Tattoos shall be appropriately covered when possible.

### ***Violations***

Students who violate the above dress codes will be asked to change into appropriate attire. The faculty member will document the occurrence on the appropriate professionalism form, including the corrective action. Repeated violations will result in the student's referral to the Student Progress Committee for disciplinary action.

**Approved by:** Principal Faculty

**Modified:** February 2015; March 2016; April 2017, April 2020

**Next Review:** Spring 2029