

WVU Department of Dental Hygiene

Uniform Policy Addendum

to the School of Dentistry Policy on Professional Appearance and Attire

Effective Date: September 1, 2025

Health Sciences students, staff, faculty, and health care providers are required to place a high value on personal appearance, including attire. The reasons are rooted in concerns for infection control, communication, and cultural sensitivity. This addendum, in conjunction with the WVU School of Dentistry Policy on Professional Appearance and Attire, sets forth standards for dress and appearance necessary to meet the service and safety objectives of placing patient welfare first and the educational objectives of preparing the student to assume the role of a professional health care worker. Patient trust and confidence in the health care provider are essential to successful treatment experiences and outcomes. The message communicated by the health care provider through their dress and appearance plays a fundamental role in establishing this trust and confidence. Students should consider the cultural sensitivities of their most conservative potential patients and present themselves in a manner that will earn their respect, ensure their trust, and make them feel comfortable. Recent trends in clothing, body art, and body piercing may not be generally accepted by patients and should not be worn by dental hygiene students. Please refer to the WVU SoD Policy on Professional Appearance and Attire for more information. The following guidelines help prepare the dental hygiene student to establish a successful health care provider-patient relationship. *Please note that if the dress code for a specific clinic or rotation differs, the most stringent or conservative guidelines take precedence.*

The following policy applies to all sophomore, junior, and senior students currently enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program. Freshmen students *may* follow this same policy but are not required to wear uniforms until the first day of the fall semester sophomore year. If they choose not to wear the uniform, freshmen must dress in an appropriate professional manner when on the Health Science Center campus.

Failure to adhere to these policies will result in dismissal from class or clinic by the instructor and is in violation of the Dental Hygiene Professional Performance Standards. Violations of the Professional Performance Standards may result up to and including dismissal from the Program.

Students are required to purchase and wear the official department uniform when attending all learning experiences/meetings at the Health Sciences Center which includes, but is not limited to:

- All courses, rotations, and clinical sessions
- Late or evening laboratories and clinics
- Meetings and/or other activities
- Study groups/Library
- Anytime on HSC campus during normal working hours between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Uniform Requirements

- General Information
 - The minimum number of official uniforms purchased must allow the student to have a clean uniform each day and must be:
 - Freshly laundered and wrinkle-free
 - Pants permanently hemmed (cannot drag on the floor)
 - Fit properly (not too tight, loose, long or short)
 - If body size or shape changes, new uniforms must be purchased

- WVU Dental Hygiene uniform scrubs must be purchased through Professional Uniforms.
 - Address: 3192 Collins Ferry Rd, Morgantown Phone: 304-599-5899
 - [WVU Dental Hygiene Lookbook](#) provides examples of approved scrub options.
 - To place an order:
 - Print the WVU Dental Hygiene [order form](#).
 - Visit Professional Uniforms to try on scrub options.
 - Completed order form will be used to order and embroider scrubs.
 - Payment is due at the time of ordering.
 - Scrub tops/jackets will be embroidered with name, Dental Hygiene, and flying WV
 - Double check the spelling of your name when submitting your information
 - Embroidered items are nonreturnable/nonrefundable
 - You may choose to use common shortened names - for example: Victoria/Vicky/Tori or Elizabeth/Beth/Liz. Any other alternative names must be approved by the Chair
- Required Uniform (minimum)
 - Scrub tops
 - Scrub bottoms
 - Shoes (see below)
 - Socks (see below)
- Not required, but if worn, must be purchased from Professional Uniforms and in compliance with the following:
 - Layers
 - If a student chooses to wear a layer underneath the scrubs, it must be a plain white long or short sleeve crew neck. No writing or design on arms of shirt.
 - Jacket
 - If a student chooses to wear a jacket while in the HSC, only white lab coats or the approved uniform jacket are permitted to be worn with uniforms
 - No sweatshirts or other under or outer garments may be worn
 - Scrub Caps
 - Students may choose to wear a solid navy or ceil blue scrub cap while engaged in patient care
- Shoes
 - Dark gray, black, or dark navy blue
 - Clean
 - Closed toed
 - Solid upper surface
 - Only worn within the confines of the Health Sciences Center and changed before leaving and upon arrival at the HSC
- Socks
 - White, gray or black
 - Clean
 - Sufficient length to cover exposed ankles
 - No visible bare skin on legs

***Any revisions to this list will be communicated directly from the Chair to all students via mix email.**