GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE

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I. PURPOSE

Once students accept admission into the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, they are considered members of the pharmacy profession. As professionals, students adhere to the standards of the profession, which includes dressing in a manner that conveys a professional image. Students are obligated to both preserve and enhance the public’s trust and confidence in pharmacists as a source of medical information, as well as providers of quality care. Professional appearance is essential to encouraging the respect for the dignity of all health care providers, patients, and all those we serve. The School of Pharmacy has established the following guidelines for attire.

II. GUIDELINES FOR ALL EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS AND ENVIRONMENTS

Expectations in all environments are that:

- Clothing is neat and clean in appearance.
- Appropriate undergarments are worn, but never visible.
- Good personal hygiene, including regular bathing, use of deodorants, and regular dental hygiene are expected.
- Fingernails are well groomed and short to medium in length.
- Hair is neat and clean, styled off the face and out of eyes; hair is not dyed any unnatural color.
- Men’s facial hair is short, clean, and well groomed.

Items that are never appropriate in any educational setting (including, but not limited to, classrooms, laboratories, and experiential learning environments) include:

- Excessive jewelry, cosmetics, perfume, aftershave, and cologne.
- Provocative or revealing attire (e.g., exposed midriffs; strapless or spaghetti strap tops; halter tops; low-cut shirts, tops, or blouses; miniskirts or short shorts; tight-fitting clothing).
- Excessively casual clothing [e.g., pajamas; slippers or slipper-like footwear; athletic and exercise attire; sweatpants; scrubs (unless required by an employer or preceptor at a practice site)].
- Attire that is distracting to other students, instructors, preceptors, health care team members, or patients (e.g., clothing with inappropriate designs, logos, or advertising).
- Hats.
- Sunglasses.
II. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR ATTIRE IN PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTS (in addition to the guidelines in section I). Professional environments include practica and laboratory sessions; experiential learning activities, including all IPPE and APPE rotations, unless otherwise specified by a preceptor for a given rotation or placement; public interactions, including service learning, outreach hours, and professional volunteer activities; and particular class sessions, as required by faculty.

Women should wear:
• Dress or skirt of medium length (or longer) or slacks (no denim).
• Closed-toed dress shoes.
• Appropriate top (e.g., collared shirt, blouse, turtleneck, or sweater of sufficient length to be tucked-in).
• School-issued clean, pressed, long-sleeved, hip-length white lab coat.
• An approved identification badge worn above the waist, if required by the site and/or preceptor, or if white coat has not yet been issued.
• In selected settings, (e.g., laboratories, sterile compounding areas), students may be required to wear safety equipment such as caps, gowns, disposable gloves, masks, and/or safety goggles.

Cautions for women:
• Cosmetics, if used, must be used in moderation. Nail polish, if worn, should be neutral and conservative in color. Artificial nails may be prohibited in some settings, such as patient care areas, as an infection control measure.
• Hair ornaments, if worn, must be moderate and in good taste. Women with hair that is shoulder length or longer may be required to pull it back in certain settings, such as laboratories and patient care environments.

Men should wear:
• Dress shirt with tie.
• Dress slacks (no denim).
• Dress socks.
• Closed-toed dress shoes.
• School-issued clean, pressed, long-sleeved, hip-length white lab coat.
• An approved identification badge worn above the waist, if required by the site and/or preceptor, or if white coat has not yet been issued.
• In selected settings, (e.g., laboratories, sterile compounding areas), students may be required to wear safety equipment such as caps, gowns, disposable gloves, masks, and/or safety goggles.

Cautions for men:
• Hair should be trimmed (above the shoulders) and neatly combed. Hair at the shoulders may be required to be pulled back in certain settings, such as laboratories and patient care environments.
• Nail polish, if worn, should be neutral and conservative in color.
Items that are **inappropriate** for women and men in professional environments (including practica and laboratory sessions; experiential learning activities, including all IPPE and APPE rotations, unless otherwise specified by a preceptor for a given rotation or placement; public interactions, including service learning, outreach hours, and professional volunteer activities; and particular class sessions, as required by faculty) include, but are not limited to:

- Denim or jeans of any type.
- Sweatshirts, hoodies, tank tops, and t-shirts.
- Athletic shoes, work boots, casual sandals.
- Visible tattoos, body art, and/or body piercings (other than up to two earrings per ear).

The only **exception** to the above guidelines is for special laboratories and patient areas in which the policies of instructors, preceptors, and institutions supersede these guidelines. Any medical condition that prevents adherence should be discussed with the dean of students.