

I. INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Appropriate Dress in the Academic and Clinical Environments

II. PURPOSE

This document provides information on appropriate dress expectations for all phases of the Doctor of Medicine program.

III. ACCREDITATION REFERENCES

LCME 3.5	Learning Environment/Professionalism
SACSCOC 12.3	Student Rights
SACSCOC 12.4	Student Complaints

IV. DESCRIPTION

When engaged in learning activities or meeting with program faculty or administration, students may be dressed comfortably according to seasonal norms. Students should refrain from wearing cutoffs, torn clothing, workout clothing (including “athleisure” wear), revealing clothing, or clothing with images, drawings, or sayings of a controversial or suggestive nature. In the M1 year, clean scrubs may only be worn on days of scheduled anatomy lab. Program administration or faculty may request professional attire (as defined in the Institutional Handbook) for special occasions (even when virtual) as deemed appropriate.

Due to COVID-19, the dress code in the pre-clerkship years has been adapted to decrease infection risk. For all clinical experiences in the M1 and M2 years (e.g., Clinical Skills sessions, practice and testing sessions at the Sentara Center for Simulation and Immersive Learning, etc.), students will not wear white coat or ties. Scrubs may be worn for non-standardized patient encounters. For all other encounters, including all standardized patient encounters, professional attire is expected to simulate a real patient visit. During the M3 and M4 years, some clinical sites have alternate established dress code policies and students are expected to comply with those policies. Scrubs are allowed only in some emergency departments, select inpatient, and surgical settings and only after inquiring regarding the expectations of the rotation. Scrubs are not to be worn outside of those settings.

Proper identification is required to be visibly worn at all times.

Faculty, staff, and administrators reserve the right to question attire choices that may seem inappropriate. A student may be refused participation in any didactic or clinical setting for inappropriate attire.

V. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Appeal and Complaint Procedures Policy
Clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy
Pre-clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy

Professionalism and Professional Identity Development Policy
M4 Elective Phase Assessment and Grading Policy