OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM DRESS CODE

Our appearance and presentation are powerful tools for making a positive impression and showing respect for self and others. As a representative of the Occupational Therapy Program, students contribute to the public image of our department and the profession of occupational therapy. This requires special attention to your appearance and clothing choices.

Classroom and Laboratory Setting:
Proper attire is required for all classroom, laboratory, and clinic sessions. When guests are present in the classroom and laboratories, the student is expected to dress professionally unless instructed otherwise; jeans are not allowed when guests are present.

Appropriate Classroom Dress:
- *Casual Professional Dress* as outlined below is required for guest presenters
- Jeans or pants – clean without holes or frayed hems
- Dress shorts and capris
- Pressed shirts or blouses
- Shoes or sandals (Close-toed shoes are required for some labs, including the cadaver lab)
- Undergarments; however, they should not be visible.
  - Tank tops or t-shirts should be tucked into pants so that nothing shows when you need to bend over or squat.
- Appropriate personal hygiene is expected and must be maintained on a daily basis.
- Nails must be trimmed close to fingertips for lab activities.
- Watch with second hand – needed for lab and clinic activities
- Personal pagers and telephones must be turned off and stored in the student’s locker or backpack.

Students may be required to wear abbreviated clothing for certain lab experiences. This would consist of a bathing suit top or sports bra for women and gym shorts for both men and women.

Inappropriate Dress (Classroom and Clinic/FW Sites):
- Backless shirts or blouses, halters, tank tops, tube tops, spaghetti straps, shirts or blouses with slogans
- Blouses or shirts that show cleavage or abdomen (including when bending forward)
- Short skirts, shorts, and mini shirts that show the naval/abdomen (including when reaching)
- Jeans or pants that show the low back (including when sitting and bending forward). Tight or revealing clothing is professionally inappropriate and may place a student at risk around clients with boundary issues.
- Sweatshirts or “jogging outfits”, unless specified for lab
- Caps and hats worn indoors, unless of a religious nature
- High heels and flip flops
- Revealing, faded, torn, wrinkled, ill-fitting or soiled clothing
- Tattoos that could otherwise be concealed
- Artificial nails; Artificial and long nails often pose an infection hazard.
- Heavy perfume / scents – these may be noxious to a client with asthma or olfactory sensitivity
• Jewelry from pierced body parts other than the ear (e.g. eyebrow, nose, tongue, lip rings, etc.)
• Bare feet
• Cell phones, iPods and personal pagers
• The Occupational Therapy Program considers t-shirts with sexual, alcohol or drug related expressions to be offensive at all times, including after hours, outside the classroom, lab, or clinic environment.

**Clinic or Fieldwork Sites:**
Students on fieldwork or classroom assignment outside of class are expected to conform to the dress requirements of the setting. Identification badges will be required during such experiences unless otherwise indicated.

Dress codes are usually written in consideration of the clients served, the types of services provided, the type of facility, safety, and so as not to distract from the services delivered or to offend clients, families, or other staff.

**Casual Professional Dress:**
• Skirts or slacks – no jeans
• Tailored shirts with a collar and sleeves
• Clothing that is clean, pressed, appropriately fitted, and in good repair
• Undergarments – see previous comment regarding tank tops and under-shirts
• Comfortable shoes with a low or no heel (closed toe & heel for medical facilities)
• Hose or socks
• Minimum amount of discreet jewelry and / or watch
• Moderate colors and styles
• Appropriate personal hygiene is expected and must be maintained on a daily basis.
• Hair must be clean and appropriately groomed on a daily basis. Extreme hair coloring is prohibited. Long hair should be pulled back when in situations where clients are involved.
• Watch with second hand.
• Identification badges must be displayed at all times.