Policy: Dress Code and Identification Policy	**Applicability:** PA Sciences Program Students
Policy Owner: PA Sciences Program	**Approved By:** Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research
Effective Date: August 5, 2024	**Last Reviewed:** July 25, 2026
Next Review: July 25, 2027	**Contact:** (615)321-2933

PURPOSE: To provide Meharry Medical College (MMC) Physician Assistant (PA) Sciences Students with a Dress Code and Identification Policy.

POLICY: This Dress Code and Identification Policy is implemented to promote professionalism and ensure student and patient safety. Be aware that your appearance is reflective of the College, Meharry Medical College (MMC) Physician Assistant (PA) Sciences Program, and the PA profession. Violations of the dress code may result in dismissal from class or clinical activity and may adversely affect the student's grade in courses.

DEFINITIONS:
Professionalism - The conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional person. The characteristic emphasized in this policy is appearance.

PROCEDURE: The following procedures apply to all students in all phases of the program, regardless of geographic location. Business casual attire is required for all classroom experiences or any representation of the MMC PA Sciences program or the College. Personal attire should be reflective of professionalism. Students in the School of Graduate Studies' PA Sciences Program, at all levels of education and training, are expected to maintain a proper professional image in their behavior and personal appearance at all times inside any Meharry or affiliate facility. Professional appearance includes the following:

1. Pants must be worn at the natural waistline
2. Shirts, tops, and dresses must have sleeves and a collar (or a modest collar-line)
3. Hair is to be neatly groomed and clean
4. Nails are to be short, neatly trimmed, and clean.
5. Students are not to wear hats or bandanas inside any Meharry or affiliate facility.
6. Students are expected to wear clean, appropriate apparel (shirts, pants, dresses, skirts, etc.) and shoes to all academic activities, and when visiting any of our affiliate institutions.

Unacceptable attire for PA students includes:

1. Short (mini) skirts,
2. Tee-shirts with inappropriate inscriptions,
3. Halter tops,
4. Exposed midriffs,
5. Excessively low-cut necklines,
6. Tank tops,
7. Spaghetti straps,
8. Sweat bands,
9. Over-sized sagging pants/jeans/shorts

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10. Caps or hats,
11. Rubber thongs/Flip flops
12. Leggings
13. Jeans

Professionally Dressed while in the Clinic Setting should include:

- Strictly adhering to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines as established by Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

  https://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/ppe/PPEslides6-2904.pdf

- Strictly adhering to universal precautions and the use of PPE as established by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospita1/hazards/u nivprec/univ.html

1. Business professional is the accepted dress for all affiliates/clinical rotations unless specified otherwise by a preceptor or the Clinical Education Director regarding a particular rotation or rotation activity.

2. A short, white consultation jacket will be worn during clinical situations and patient contact. Expectations should be discussed with the preceptor in advance of the first day in the clinical setting. Short white consultation coats have the following:
   a. The MMC PA Sciences Program Patch
   b. The Student's first and last name
   c. PA-S (PA-Student) after the student's name

   If the consultation jacket is not required by a preceptor or site, the student must wear and have visible at all times their Meharry Medial College institutional nametag.

3. MMC issued scrubs may be worn during patient contact with the white consultation jacket and closed toe shoes.

4. Students must wear, and have visible at all times, the Meharry Medical College institutional nametag with the following information:
   a. The student's picture
   b. The student's name
   c. The institution's name
   d. The school the student is enrolled in
   e. PA-S, identifying the students as a physician assistant student

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The following are not accepted in the Clinic Setting:

1. Open-toed shoes
2. Jewelry that is dangling/hanging,
3. piercings and other accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or patient are prohibited.

At no time should a student, either by virtue of his/her skills or knowledge attained while progressing through the MMC PA Sciences Program, misrepresent him-/her-self as being any medical professional other than a PA student. Students may not use previously earned titles and credentials in any correspondence regarding or related to the MMC PA Sciences Program, (i.e., EMT, RN, PT, PhD, RD, etc.).

These statements are general in nature and apply to all patient care settings. The student shall also follow affiliate dress code policies established by the preceptor or facility.

EXHIBITS:

RELATED POLICIES: