



# Western Carolina University Emergency Medical Care Program

## CLINICAL DRESS CODE POLICY

- Applies to:** All EMC Program students participating in clinical rotations
- Purpose:** To establish general guidelines for personal appearance while participating in clinical rotations.
- Policy:** EMC Program students are responsible for presenting a personal appearance which demonstrates good grooming and hygiene, neatness, professionalism, and safety.

### 1. Class A Uniforms

All EMC Program students shall be neat and well-groomed at all times. Uniforms shall be clean (unsoiled) and unwrinkled (pressed). Shoes, belts, and belt buckles shall be cleaned and polished at all times.

The MICU student uniform consists of a white uniform shirt (long or short sleeves) bearing the WCU paramedic emblem on the left sleeve, navy blue or black slacks, and black, comfortable, tie shoes, which will be maintained in a clean and polished condition.

Students will wear solid black or navy blue socks.

A plain, white tee shirt, free of markings or advertisements, will be worn under the uniform shirt. No long sleeve shirts of any type may be worn beneath the short sleeve uniform shirt.

Students will wear solid black or navy blue, leather or nylon, belts. Belt buckles will be plain, unadorned, in black, silver, or gold color.

The uniform is to be worn at all times while on the MICU.

Uniforms must be **clean and neat** at all times. Due to the nature of the rotations, students are required to have available a second, clean uniform with them during each clinical assignment.

Jeans, tennis shoes, sandals, high heels, and jogging shoes are unacceptable dress.

Appropriate outer garments may be selected by the student with discretion. These garments should be free of any markings or advertisements.

## 2. Accessories

A standardized name tag identifying the wearer by name, photo, and as a WCU Paramedic Intern is to be worn on the uniform at all times. Name tags are to be worn with the identifying information visible at all times.

Personal opinion, advertising, slang, or other extra buttons or pins are not allowed.

Commendation pins must be worn over the left breast pocket of Class A uniforms.

Utility pouches (for scissors, instruments, pagers, radios, etc.) will be solid black or navy blue, leather or nylon.

A functional watch, with the ability to measure time in seconds, will be worn by the students.

Hats may not be worn during the clinical rotations.

Sunglasses will not be worn during clinical rotations.

Cell phones and pagers may not be worn in the hospital setting. During MICU rotations, cell phones and pagers must be turned off during patient contact and must remain in the vibrate setting at all other times.

## 3. Grooming and Appearance

Hair must be clean and neatly groomed. Hair must be neatly trimmed and not extend below the lower margin of the uniform shirt collar in the back or mid-ear on the sides. Long hair must be pinned up so as not to extend below the lower edge of the uniform shirt collar in the back or mid-ear on the sides. Barrettes or pins used shall be gold or silver colored or in a color similar to hair color.

Excessive facial make-up is not allowed.

Beards and goatees will not be allowed.

Mustaches shall be neatly groomed and not overlap the mouth or extend below the corner of the mouth. Mustaches must not interfere with the wearing of respirators. Individual fit testing will determine whether a mustache may be worn.

Sideburns shall not extend below the ear lobe.

Fingernails will be clean, short, well manicured, and absent of nail polish. Acrylic nails shall not be worn.

Bracelets (with the exception of Medical ID bracelets), necklaces, rings, and earrings will not be worn while in uniform.

Body piercings will not be worn to the clinical sites. These include earrings, nose rings, eyebrow rings, tongue rings, and any other visible piercings.

Visible tattoos must be covered.

Perfumes and after shave lotions will not be used as they may adversely affect the patients.

Students are required to carry assigned fanny pack with them to each clinical rotation.

#### 4. Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on the MICU or in clinical units. Smoking regulations for the base stations and clinical locations are to be observed by the student. Gum, chewing tobacco, and snuff may not be utilized when the student intern is involved in patient care situations.

#### 5. Business Casual Attire

For all clinical rotations not requiring the Class A Uniform, business casual attire shall be worn to the hospital setting. Once in the hospital setting, students may change into hospital-provided scrubs.

Solid-color khaki-type slacks (clean and pressed) shall be worn. Jeans of any type or color are prohibited.

Button-down shirts or polo-type shirts (clean and pressed) will be worn.

Shoes must be clean and neat. Open-toed shoes, high heels, Birkenstock-type shoes, and sandals are prohibited.

A standardized name tag identifying the wearer by name, photo, and as a WCU Paramedic Intern is to be worn at all times. Name tags are to be worn with the identifying information visible at all times.