

Policy Name: Nursing Student Dress Code  
Policy Number: ACA 1.04  
Title of Policy Owner: Dean of Academic Affairs  
Approved by: Faculty Organization/Administrative Cabinet  
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Version: 2.0  
Policy Status: Approved

- I. Policy  
Nursing Student Dress Code
- II. Purpose  
To ensure that students uphold the high standards of the Bon Secours Mercy Health and the Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (BSMCON) by demonstrating professionalism in both appearance and behavior.
- III. Scope  
This policy applies to students when they are in any College educational setting. ***Students who fail to adhere to this dress code may be asked to leave the class, Clinical Simulation and Learning Center (CSLC), or the practicum setting until the necessary changes have been made.***
- IV. Definitions  
None
- V. Policy Details  
On-campus (classroom) Dress Code
  1. While on-campus, a clean and professional appearance should be maintained. Identification badges should be worn as described below.
  2. Clothing is considered inappropriate when it is strapless, backless, revealing, or shows the midriff. Dresses, skirts, and shorts should be no shorter than the fingertips with arms at sides. Camisoles or spaghetti strap shirts are not appropriate. Underclothing (panties, briefs, bra straps, etc.) should not be visible.

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### Pre-licensure Clinical Dress Code and Equipment Requirements

1. The approved elements of the BSMCON uniform are the royal blue uniform with college logo embroidered on the right side of the chest of the scrub top, the College of Nursing's white scrub jacket, approved fleece jacket, and approved fleece vest may be worn over the uniform; unless it poses an infection control risk or will interfere with patient care. The clinical uniform, scrub jacket, and fleece vest may **only** be worn in the clinical setting, Clinical Simulation and Learning Center, and the College. The fleece jacket may be worn as an everyday jacket **ONLY IF** it is not being worn in the clinical setting.
2. Bon Secours-issued identification badge - badges are worn above the waist in an upright, readable position at all times. The name and photo must always be visible. Where applicable, identification badges may not be required or may be modified as appropriate in some settings due to infection control procedures or safety precautions (i.e., Surgery). Students must wear the identification badge properly at all other times while on duty and at the College.
3. Additional "title badge" provided by the college designating "Student RN" shall be worn in plain view under the identification badge.
4. Shoes must be leather, synthetic leather, or other non-porous material with a closed toe. Shoes can be all white, black, or blue. Shoes and shoelaces must be in good condition, clean, and free from stains. Shoelaces must be same color as shoes. No canvas or mesh type material is permitted.
5. Solid colored white, black, or blue socks.
6. While in clinical uniform, a limited amount of jewelry is allowed; however, it may not pose a safety hazard, infection control risk, or interfere with patient care. Students may wear a watch and a wedding band with an engagement ring unless prohibited by infection control policies. Students may wear up to two earrings only in each earlobe in matching sets. Earrings should not be oversized or extend more than ¼" below the ear lobe. Ear gauges are not permitted. No more than 1-2 necklaces may be worn. Facial and other body

jewelry or piercings are not acceptable. If the jewelry is unable to be removed, then it must be covered with a bandage.

7. Visible tattoos are allowed as long as they are not offensive or profane as determined by faculty and/or administration.

8. Hair must be kept clean and neatly styled. If hair is beyond shoulder length it should be pulled back and secured. Any extreme look is not permitted. Unnaturally colored hair or glittered hair spray is not permitted. Students may have short well-groomed beard, mustache, or goatee. If headbands are worn, they must be clean and solid white, black, or blue.

9. Fingernails should be kept clean, well-groomed, and no longer than the tip of the finger. If polish is worn, moderate, subdued colors should be selected and should be maintained without cracks or chips. Multicolored nails or extremes in color are not permitted. Use of artificial nails or extenders (glue-on, acrylic, or press-on types) is not permitted. Artificial nails are defined as anything other than natural fingernails. Nail jewelry is not permitted.

10. Nursing scrub caps or hats are permitted while in uniform as long as they are solid blue, black, or white.

11. Undergarments (slips, bras, briefs, boxers, camisoles, and panties) are required in coordination with outerwear, but may not be visible through clothing and must be covered entirely by clothing.

12. Neutral, solid color base layers (white, grey, blue, or black) are permitted under uniform. Base layer may be long sleeve if permitted on the unit where the student is practicing.

13. Make-up and perfumes/colognes should be subtle. Make-up may be worn in soft shades that complement natural skin tones. Students should wear subtle perfumes/colognes/deodorant due to close contact with others. Some clinical areas may prohibit all scents if they pose a hazard to patients or coworkers.

14. Students must carry a stethoscope and wear a watch with second hand in the clinical and simulation center settings unless otherwise directed by faculty.

15. Gum chewing is not permitted.

16. Exceptions may be made for religious beliefs as long as attire does not interfere with patient care or present a safety hazard.

17. Guidelines for Observational/Specialty Experiences: For courses involving specialty or observational clinical areas, the College uniform must be worn to the specialty area and changed to the specified scrubs or attire. Some courses may require street clothing for observational/clinical experiences. The course syllabus/clinical faculty for such courses will outline the appropriate dress for these experiences.

#### Guidelines for Post-Licensure Students

The course syllabus and faculty for practicum courses will outline the appropriate dress for practicum experiences. Bon Secours-issued identification badge must be worn above the waist in an upright, readable position at all times. The name and photo must be visible at all times. Where applicable, identification badges may not be required or may be modified as appropriate in some settings due to infection control procedures or safety precautions (i.e., Surgery).

#### Open Lab Hours in the Clinical Simulation and Learning Center (CSLC)

Students are permitted in the CSLC during open lab hours for practice in street clothes. Students must always have on their identification badge while in the CSLC.

VI. Attachments  
None

VII. Related Policies  
None

**VIII. Disclaimers**

- a. Nothing in this policy creates a contractual relationship between Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (BSMCON) and any party. BSMCON, in its sole discretions, reserves the right to amend, terminate or discontinue this policy at any time, with or without advance notice.

**IX. Version Control**

Version	Date	Description	Prepared by
1.0	4/13/2020	Revisions and new template	Dean of Academic Affairs
2.0	5/11/22	Updated DI language, minor clarifications	Dean of Academic Affairs