



Department of Nursing  
Policy # 039

### Dress Code

<b>Status:</b>	Approved 7.13.2017 Revised 2.15.2019
<b>Effective:</b>	2.15.2019
<b>Initiated by:</b>	Bylaws and Policy Committee
<b>Relevant WAC/ Standards/References:</b>	WAC 246-840-519

#### Purpose

A clinical placement dress code has been established for Heritage University BSN students in recognition of the fact that the mode of dress has an effect on the establishment of a rapport and working relationship with patients, families, and other care providers. The purpose of this professional attire and appearance is to:

- Identify the person as a Heritage University BSN student.
- Promote the safety of the patient, family and Heritage University BSN student.
- Promote the development of trust by reducing barriers to the establishment of a therapeutic nurse-patient relationship.
- Provide consistency with infection control, safety, and patient comfort guidelines.

It is not intended to stifle individuality or be restrictive; rather, it is an attempt to help students make the transition to professional nursing.

#### Policies and Procedures

In uniform, students represent themselves, the Heritage University Department of Nursing, and the profession. Nursing students are expected to wear student uniforms when giving nursing care, unless a different policy is specifically defined by the clinical unit or agency. A student must abide by any uniform or dress codes set by the agency in which the student is having a clinical experience.

Students begin wearing the Heritage University Department of Nursing uniform during the first semester when participating in Yakima Valley Interprofessional Practice and Education Consortium (YVIPEC) activities, in laboratory courses in the HU nursing lab, and at clinical agencies. The uniform consists of a regulation white scrub top with the HU logo, and blue scrub pants. In addition, a white scrub warmup jacket with the HU logo is available for purchase. White, "professional" shoes with non-perforated leather or rubber uppers are required (no canvas). Shoes should have closed toes (for safety with spills and sharps), covered heels, offer good support, and should be reserved for clinical use only.

For clinicals based at the HU Early Childhood Learning Center, the uniform consists of a regulation blue polo shirt with the HU logo, and khaki pants. A dark blue cardigan sweater with the HU logo is available for purchase. For campus-based laboratory learning, a regulation blue scrub top with the HU logo may be worn in lieu of the white scrub top along with blue scrub pants.

At all times the uniform should be clean and pressed, and shoes clean and polished. Any questions about the appropriateness of attire will be resolved at the discretion of the clinical faculty supervisor.

Students are required to wear a badge with first and last name identifying them as a Heritage University nursing student at all times in all clinical settings. Name badges can be obtained from the Administrative Coordinator of the Department of Nursing.

All uniforms must be purchased from Northwest Uniforms. A representative of Northwest Uniforms will be available at orientation for sizing and ordering. Additional uniforms may be sized and purchased at:

Uniforms Northwest  
901 Summitview Ave # 110, Yakima, WA 98902  
(509) 575-1015

**Additional Dress Code considerations:**

- Students must be personally clean and well-groomed to minimize odor.
- Perfume, cologne, aftershave and lotions with fragrances should not be worn. Many patients, family members and staff are allergic to such fragrances.
- Hair should be kept back and long hair up for cleanliness and safety. Men should shave daily, and any facial hair should be well trimmed.
- Makeup should be worn with discretion and moderation.
- Nails are to be clean, of a length that could not scratch a patient during care, and in good repair. Nail polish should be neutral and not chipped. No acrylic nails are allowed as they promote microbial growth.
- A watch with a second hand will be necessary for most clinical experiences.
- Jewelry should be minimal - for example: a wedding band; small, plain, non-dangling earrings in the ear lobe. Nose rings, other visible piercings and large gauges may be distracting for patients. Jewelry or piercings other than in the ear lobes should not be worn.
- Students must adhere to the agency's dress code in accordance with jewelry and tattoos.

**Professional Attire on Heritage and PNWU Campuses**

Professional dress is expected for any activity on campus. This is defined as casual business attire when not dressed in the official BSN uniform. Do **not** wear tank tops, halter tops, sheer blouses, midriff/half shirts, miniskirts, slit skirts, spike heels, flip-flops, and/or any tight clothing. Clean, intact jeans and dress shorts are acceptable. Workout shorts and gear are not acceptable. There is to be no bare skin (midriff, back, abdomen, buttocks, etc.) showing. Students must wear underwear (briefs or boxer shorts for males, panties and bra for women).

**Professional Attire off Campus**

Professional dress is expected for any activity off campus that represents Heritage University. Professional dress is HU warmup jacket/lab coat with a HU Department of Nursing name pin over professional clothes. Additionally some clinical experiences at some of the outpatient or community-based clinical sites may require the modified uniform. Guidelines for appropriate attire will be provided by the clinical faculty supervisor. Do **not** wear jeans, shorts, tank tops, halter tops, sheer blouses, midriff/half shirts, miniskirts, slit skirts, shorts, spike heels, flip-flops, and/or any tight clothing. There is to be no bare skin (midriff, back, abdomen, etc.) showing while in uniform. Underwear (briefs or boxer shorts for males, panties and bra for women) must be worn.

Non-compliance with this policy will result in the student being sent home from any Heritage University associated activity, including clinical or lab, and a possible academic warning. If a student is sent home, he/she may or may not be able to make up missed clinical hours. It is up to the discretion of the clinical faculty supervisor.

**Policy Reviewers**

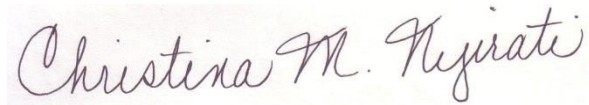
Policy #039  
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Proposed revisions of this policy should be reviewed by:

1. Nursing Faculty Assembly
2. Bylaws and Policy Committee
3. Curriculum Committee
4. Admission, Progression, Retention, & Graduation Committee

**Forms**

There are no forms associated with this policy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina M. Kujrati". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_