



Nursing Department

Policy # 039

Dress Code

Status:	Originated 2017-07-13 Revised 2024-05-20, 2019-02-15
Effective:	2024-05-20
Initiated by:	Bylaws, Policies, and Handbooks Committee
WAC:	WAC 246-840-519

PURPOSE

A clinical dress code is established for Heritage University nursing 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 professional attire and appearance is to:

- Identify the person as a Heritage University nursing student.
- Promote the safety of the patient, family, and 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.

This policy is not intended to stifle individuality nor be restrictive, rather, it is an attempt to help students make the transition to professional nursing.

AUDIENCE

This policy applies to all Heritage University Nursing Department (HUND) students.

PLAN

When in uniform, students represent themselves, the Heritage University Department of Nursing, and the nursing profession. Students also wear the Heritage University Department of Nursing uniform when participating in Northwest Interprofessional Health Collaborative (NIHC) activities, in laboratory courses in the HU nursing lab, and at clinical agencies. Students are expected to wear student uniforms when in the clinical setting, 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.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Heritage University Department of Nursing Clinical and Lab Uniform

The HUND clinical and lab uniform consists of a royal blue scrub top with the HU nursing logo embroidered in white and royal blue scrub pants. A blue scrub warmup jacket with the HU logo may also be worn. Closed-toe, closed-heel, non-perforated shoes with non-permeable uppers are required for safety with spills and sharps. Shoes should offer good support for long clinical days. It is strongly recommended to have a pair of shoes for clinical use only for hygiene control and longevity. Additional layers may be worn under scrub tops but the scrub top or warmup jacket must always be the top layer, i.e.

other jackets should not be worn over tops.

- Blue embroidered in white

Early Childhood Learning Center Uniform

For clinicals based at the HU Early Childhood Learning Center, the uniform consists of a regulation blue polo shirt with the HU logo, khaki pants, and closed-toe, closed-heel, non-permeable shoes. A dark blue cardigan sweater with the HU logo may also be worn.

Uniform Cleanliness and Maintenance

To maintain the cleanliness and professional image of the uniform:

- Students will purchase at least two pairs of scrub pants
- Students will purchase at least two scrub tops
- Scrubs must be an approved design and color and have the HU nursing logo

At all times uniforms and shoes should be neat and clean. Any questions about the appropriateness of attire will be resolved at the discretion of the course head or clinical faculty.

Name Badges

Students are required to wear their issued name badge identifying them as a Heritage University nursing student at all times in all clinical settings. Name badges are distributed by the Department of Nursing Administrative Coordinator.

Uniform Purchasing

All uniforms are available from Northwest Uniforms in Yakima at a program discount. A representative of Northwest Uniforms is available at BSN program 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

Professional Attire on Heritage and PNWU Campuses

Professional dress is expected for any scheduled HU activities on campus, including all non-lab classroom sessions. This is defined as casual business attire when not dressed in an official HU nursing uniform.

Professional Attire Off-campus

Professional dress is expected for any scheduled activity off-campus that represents Heritage University. Unless otherwise specified, this includes professional clothes and HUND name badge, and a HU warmup jacket or lab coat if desired. Additionally, some clinical experiences at some of the outpatient or community-based clinical sites may require the modified polo and slacks uniform. If in doubt, guidelines for appropriate attire will be provided by clinical faculty.

Additional Dress Code Considerations

The following guidelines are to ensure personal and patient safety and comfort:

- All clinical and partner site dress code policies must be followed. These include but may not be limited to hair, piercings, tattoos, etc.
- 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 sensitive to such fragrances.

- Hair should be kept back and long hair kept up for cleanliness and safety.
- Facial hair may require adjustment for proper face mask fitting.
- 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. Acrylic nails are not allowed as they promote microbial growth.
- A watch with clear indication of seconds will be necessary for most clinical experiences.
- For the sake of safety and reduction of pathogen transmission, jewelry should be minimal - for example: a wedding band or small non-dangling jewelry.

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, they may or may not be able to make up missed clinical hours or experiences, dependent on the discretion of the supervising faculty.

CITED AND RELATED POLICIES

Cited

- NA

Related

- Nursing Policy #007 Faculty Responsibilities in the Clinical Setting
- Nursing Policy #009 Professionalism
- Nursing Policy #029 Attendance

WAC

Washington State Legislature. (2016). WAC 246-840-519. *Student requirements in all approved nursing education programs.* <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=246-840-519>

REFERENCES

No references are associated with this policy.

FORMS

No forms are associated with this policy.

POLICY REVIEWERS

Proposed revisions of this policy should be reviewed by:

- 1) Bylaws, Policies, and Handbooks Committee
- 2) Nursing Faculty Assembly

Nursing Director Signature:

