


Date: 6/2025	Dress Code #208	Pages: 1 of X
Reviewed:	 Tina Vanburen, DNP, MSN, RN, CNS Director, School of Nursing	Student Affairs Committee

PURPOSE

This dress code policy establishes professional appearance standards for students of Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing (JFMSON). The policy ensures students project a professional image while adhering to infection control principles and safety guidelines in clinical and academic settings.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all enrolled students of Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing in all academic, clinical, and community-based learning environments.

DEFINITIONS

Authorized Uniform: The official JFMSON student uniform consisting of navy pants and a white scrub top with the Joseph F. McCloskey logo, purchased exclusively through MP Outfitters, Allentown, PA.

Clinical Setting: Any healthcare facility, community agency, or patient care environment where students provide direct or indirect patient care.

Professional Appearance: Neat, clean, well-groomed appearance that reflects the standards expected of healthcare professionals.

POLICY

Students at Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing must present a professional appearance to patients, healthcare personnel, and the general public. Students are expected to adhere to this dress code in all settings.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

1. Official Uniform Components

- **Scrub Top:** White scrub top with Joseph F. McCloskey logo (required)
- **Pants:** Navy scrub pants (required)

Joseph F. McCloskey
School of Nursing



- **Outerwear:** Navy scrub jacket OR navy warm-up jacket with JFMSON logo (optional)
- **Undergarments:** Skin tone or white undergarments that are not visible through clothing
- 2. **Uniform Procurement**
 - All uniform items **MUST** be purchased exclusively through MP Outfitters, Allentown, PA
 - Students are responsible for maintaining an adequate supply of clean uniforms
 - Uniforms must be properly fitted and in good repair
 - Under uniform shirts must be white with a rounded collar
- 3. **Uniform Maintenance**
 - All uniform components must be clean, pressed, and in good repair
 - Stained, torn, or excessively worn uniforms are unacceptable
 - Proper laundering techniques should be used to maintain color and appearance

IDENTIFICATION

- 4. **Student ID Badge**
 - School-issued ID badge must be worn at all times in clinical and academic settings
 - Badge must be worn above the waist on the right side of the chest
 - Badge must display picture, first name, last name, and position title clearly visible
 - Badge must be attached to the outermost garment
 - Necklace or waist placement is prohibited

FOOTWEAR

- 5. **Clinical Footwear**
 - Clean, neutral-colored sneakers with rubber soles required
 - Closed-toe shoes with non-slip soles required
 - Sandals, clogs, canvas shoes, or shoes with mesh panels are prohibited
 - Neutral colored or white hosiery or full-cut socks must be worn at all times

PERSONAL GROOMING AND HYGIENE

- 6. **Hair**
 - Hair must be neat, clean, and professionally styled
 - Hair extending beyond the collar must be secured properly
 - Hair color should be within natural color ranges; extreme hair colors that are unnatural are not permitted
 - Extreme hairstyles are prohibited
 - Hair accessories should be minimal and professional
- 7. **Facial Hair**
 - Must be neatly trimmed and well-groomed
 - Clean-shaven appearance preferred in clinical settings
- 8. **Personal Hygiene and Fragrance**
 - Daily bathing and use of deodorant/antiperspirant required

Joseph F. McCloskey
School of Nursing



- Light cologne or perfume acceptable; strong perfumes/scents are not to be worn in patient care areas
- Body odor offensive to others is unacceptable

JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES

9. Permitted Jewelry

- One wristwatch (required for clinical)
- One simple neck chain (must be tucked inside uniform top)
- One ring per hand (wedding set counts as one ring)
- Maximum two small, discrete stud earrings per ear (must be less than two inches in diameter and length)
- Gauges must be solid and not exceed ¼ inch in diameter; jewelry connectors not permitted
- Wrist jewelry limited to watches and emergency alert bracelets only

10. Prohibited Jewelry

- Dangling earrings of any size
- Visible body piercings (nose, lip, eyebrow, tongue, etc.)
- Excessive jewelry or accessories
- Bracelets (except medical alert bracelets)
- Jewelry that interferes with job performance or distracts others

BODY ART AND MODIFICATIONS

11. Tattoos

- Every effort to cover tattoos/"body art" shall be made
- Authorized long sleeves may be worn with uniform tops when necessary to cover tattoos
- Temporary tattoos or body art prohibited

NAIL CARE

12. Nail Standards

- Natural nails only; artificial nails, extensions, wraps, or nail jewelry prohibited
- Artificial nails are defined as any materials attached to the natural nail, including but not limited to plastic press-on nails, acrylic nails, acrylic nail tips, fiberglass, gels, silk wraps, shellac, nail extenders, or any additional items applied to the nail surface, including any nail product that requires "curing" under ultraviolet light
- Nails must be trimmed short (not extending beyond fingertips)
- Clear or neutral nail polish acceptable; chipped or worn nail polish must be removed
- Extreme nail colors or designs prohibited

CLINICAL ACCESSORIES

13. Required Clinical Equipment

- Wristwatch with second hand or digital display
- Bandage scissors

- Black ink pen
- Penlight
- Stethoscope (as specified by program)

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

14. Community Clinical Settings

- Some community agencies may require professional business attire
- Faculty will provide specific dress requirements when applicable
- JFMSON ID badge is always required regardless of dress code variation

15. Class Attendance

- Professional casual attire is acceptable for classroom settings
- Uniform required for laboratory sessions and skills practice
- JFMSON ID badge required at all times on campus

RESPONSIBILITIES

Students: Responsible for compliance with all dress code requirements, maintaining professional appearance, and purchasing authorized uniforms from the designated vendor.

Faculty: Responsible for monitoring compliance and addressing violations promptly and professionally and for ensuring students meet agency-specific dress requirements and maintaining professional standards in clinical settings.

ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTIONS

Students failing to comply with dress code requirements may be:

- Dismissed from clinical or classroom activities
- Required to correct deficiencies before returning
- Subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Handbook

Repeated violations may result in probation, suspension, or dismissal from the program.

REFERENCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). *Guideline for isolation precautions: Preventing transmission of infectious agents in healthcare settings*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/>

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. (2024). *Criteria for a recommended standard: Occupational exposure to healthcare workers*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2024). *Bloodborne pathogens and needlestick prevention*. U.S. Department of Labor. <https://www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens>

Joseph F. McCloskey
School of Nursing



The Joint Commission. (2024). *National patient safety goals effective January 2024: Hospital accreditation program*. <https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/national-patient-safety-goals/>

REVIEW and APPROVAL: Student Affairs Committee