

Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing

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Reviewed: 8/2026	 Tina VanBuren, DNP, MSN, RN, CNS Director, School of Nursing	Student Affairs Committee

PURPOSE

This dress code establishes professional appearance standards for students of the Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing (JFMSON), ensuring 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 JFMSON students in all academic, clinical, and community-based learning environments.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations to this policy will be made for religious beliefs, disability, or medical needs. Requests should be directed to the Director of Nursing. Accommodations that raise infection control or safety questions in clinical settings will be resolved with the clinical agency.

DEFINITIONS

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

Clinical Setting: any health care facility, community agency, or patient care environment where students provide direct or indirect patient care. **Professional Appearance:** a neat, clean, well-groomed appearance reflecting the standards expected of health care professionals.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

- **Official components:** white scrub top with logo (required); navy scrub pants (required); navy scrub jacket or navy warm-up jacket with JFMSON logo (optional); skin-tone or white undergarments not visible through clothing; under-uniform shirts white with a rounded collar.
- **Procurement:** all uniform items must be purchased through MP Outfitters, Allentown, PA. Students are responsible for maintaining an adequate supply of clean, properly fitted uniforms in good repair.
- **Maintenance:** all components must be clean, pressed, and in good repair; stained, torn, or excessively worn uniforms are unacceptable.

IDENTIFICATION

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

FOOTWEAR

- Clean, neutral-colored, closed-toe sneakers with rubber, non-slip soles are required. Sandals, clogs, canvas shoes, and 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

- Hair must be neat, clean, and secured away from the face and patient care field; hair extending beyond the collar must be secured. Hair rules exist for safety and infection control. Hair accessories should be minimal and professional.
- Facial hair must be neatly trimmed and well groomed, and must permit an effective respirator seal where fit-testing is required for clinical placement.
- Daily hygiene and deodorant use are required. Strong perfumes and scents are not to be worn in patient care areas.

JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES

- Permitted: one wristwatch (required for clinical); one simple neck chain, tucked inside the uniform top; one ring per hand (a wedding set counts as one ring); a maximum of two small, discreet stud earrings per ear; ear gauges that are solid, not exceeding one-quarter inch in diameter, without jewelry connectors; wrist jewelry limited to watches and medical alert bracelets.
- Prohibited: dangling earrings of any size; visible body piercings other than the ear jewelry described above (nose, lip, eyebrow, tongue, etc.); excessive jewelry or accessories; bracelets other than medical alert bracelets; and jewelry that interferes with performance or safety.

BODY ART

- Every reasonable effort to cover tattoos shall be made; authorized long sleeves may be worn under uniform tops when necessary. Temporary tattoos are prohibited.

NAIL CARE

- Natural nails only, trimmed short (not extending beyond fingertips). Artificial nails of any kind (including press-on, acrylic, tips, fiberglass, gels, silk wraps, shellac, extenders, or any product requiring UV curing) are prohibited. Clear or neutral polish is acceptable; chipped polish must be removed.

CLINICAL ACCESSORIES

- Required: wristwatch with second hand or digital display, bandage scissors, black ink pen, penlight, and stethoscope as specified by the program.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Some community agencies may require professional business attire; faculty will provide specific requirements. The JFMSON ID badge is always required.
- Professional casual attire is acceptable for classroom settings. The uniform is required for laboratory sessions and skills practice. The ID badge is required at all times on campus.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are responsible for compliance, professional appearance, and purchasing authorized uniforms from the designated vendor. Faculty are responsible for monitoring compliance, addressing violations promptly and professionally, and ensuring students meet agency-specific dress requirements.

ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTIONS

Students failing to comply may be dismissed from clinical or classroom activities and required to correct deficiencies before returning, and are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Handbook. A dismissal from clinical under this policy counts as a clinical absence under the Attendance Policy. Repeated violations may result in probation, suspension, or dismissal from the program.

REVIEW and APPROVAL

This policy is reviewed annually by the Student Affairs Committee.