

	Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Department of Physician Assistant	Policy Number	PHAS - 015
	Student Identification & Dress Code Policy (A3.04)	Effective Date	08/01/2022
		Last Reviewed	05/13/2026
		Revision Date	05/13/2026
	Approved by: Gina S. Brown, Ph.D., MSA, RN, FAAN, FNAP, FADLN Dean, College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences	Next Review	05/12/2027

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I. PURPOSE

To provide matriculating Howard University Physician Assistant students with the program expectations for professional attire and identification.

II. POLICY

It is the practice and procedure of the Howard University Physician Assistant Department to implement a dress code and expectations for professionalism of Howard University Physician Assistant students. Students are expected to carry and conduct themselves at all times in a manner that conveys professionalism reflective of the Howard University Physician Assistant Program and ensures student and patient safety.

III. DEFINITIONS

N/A

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Suitable professional appearance includes grooming, attire, and identification. Professional appearance includes the following as described:
 1. Hair is to be neatly groomed and clean
 2. Nails are to be neatly trimmed, 1 inch length and clean.
 3. Students may not wear artificial nails during the clinical phase.
 4. Students are not to wear caps, hats, bandanas, or sweatbands.
 5. Students are expected to wear clean, appropriate apparel (shirts, pants, dresses, skirts, etc.) and shoes to all academic activities, and when visiting any of our affiliate institutions.
- B. Unacceptable attire for PA students includes:
 1. Short (mini) skirts (appropriate length no more than 2 inches above the knee)
 2. Tee shirts with inappropriate inscriptions (vulgarity, racial connotations)
 3. Halter tops, crop tops, or low-cut necklines

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4. Tank tops, spaghetti straps
5. Over-sized sagging, pants/jeans/shorts
6. Sweatbands
7. Rubber thongs/flip flops
8. Leggings (Athletic leisure wear acceptable, see-through/mesh leggings not acceptable)

C. Professional dress while in the clinic setting should include the following:

1. Business professional is the accepted dress for Grand Round presentations, and all affiliates/clinical rotations unless specified otherwise by a preceptor of the Clinical Education Coordinator regarding a particular rotation or rotation activity.
2. A short, white student jacket with the following:
 - a. Howard University Physician Assistant Program patch.
 - b. Howard University Student photo identification card displayed in badge holder.
 - c. Name badge with student's first and last name with PA-S after their name. Names may be embroidered onto jacket.
 - *Example: John Doe, PA-S*
3. Scrubs may be worn during patient contact with the short, white student jacket and closed toe shoes.
4. The following are not accepted in the clinical setting:
 - a. Open-toed and sandals shoes are not permitted in the clinic setting.
 - b. Jewelry that is dangling/hanging, piercings and other accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or patient are prohibited.

*Matriculating students may not represent themselves with previously earned credentials (i.e., EMT, RN, PT, PhD, RD, etc.).

*Dress codes implemented and established by clinical site or facility may supersede program dress code policy.