

Policy – Medical Student Dress Code

Background:

This Policy is an extension of the UnitingCare Clinical School - Expectations of Student Behaviour Protocol.

The UnitingCare Clinical School views professional medical student attire as essential when undertaking clinical placement within any UnitingCare Hospital.

Professional attire includes personal hygiene and grooming, as well as the choice of dress. UnitingCare Health upholds the “bare below the elbows” policy; this extends to medical students, and their choice of attire. As students will no longer be required to wear white coats in the clinical environment the UnitingCare Clinical School mandates that students wear appropriate university identification in the clinical area, to demark students from Visiting Medical Officers and other healthcare workers.

This policy exists to promote patient comfort and safety, as well as to ensure the continued good reputation of UnitingCare Health.

Whenever within the hospital grounds, students must be suitably attired to provide care to patients in various clinical situations, specific examples of correct attire include:

- Clean, pressed and professional attire that shows no evidence of staining.
 - Male students must wear a collared shirt at all times, with medium length sleeves, or sleeves neatly rolled to the elbows.
 - Female students need not wear a collar; however, cap sleeves and modest necklines are essential.
 - Long pants
 - Skirts must be modest
 - Low-cut tops, bare midriffs, and shoulders are unacceptable and in breach of this policy.
 - Footwear must be comfortable, flat-soled and fully enclosed when in clinical areas
- Student ID card displaying student name and year of program must be worn at all times.
 - Long hair must be firmly secured
 - Jewellery is required to be simple and unobtrusive. Students must comply with the ‘bare below the elbows’ policy whilst in clinical environments.

“Bare Below the Elbows is an initiative aiming to improve the effectiveness of hand hygiene performed by health care workers. The effectiveness of hand hygiene is improved when: skin is intact, nails are natural, short and unvarnished; hands and forearms are free of jewellery and sleeves are above the elbow” (QLD Health 2017).

Entry to Clinical Environments may be denied to students who do not meet these requirements.

Document Name: Policy – Medical Student Dress Code	Created: March 2021	Version: 6
Author: Senior Medical Education Coordinator	Effective Date: March 2021	Author: Jo Henderling
Authorised by: Dr Stephen Cook	To Be Reviewed: December 2025	