The University of Arizona
Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic Policy
DRESS AND DEMEANOR EXPECTATIONS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICUM

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the expectations of the University of Arizona Speech-Language and Hearing Clinics regarding personal appearance and attire of clinicians and staff while in clinical settings.

Policy

We expect students, staff, and faculty to dress in an appropriate professional manner when working in the clinics. Although attire may vary for some clinical activities, the guidelines below reflect typical expectations. When in doubt, consult with your clinical instructors or use them as role models with regard to dressing appropriately. If a student is dressed inappropriately for clinical practicum, they may be asked to leave and return once they are appropriately dressed.

For all students and staff

- **Attire** must be neat, clean and wrinkle-free.
- **Dress pants, chinos/khakis, and slacks** are appropriate and should be full length, extending below the midpoint of the calf. **Shorts** are not appropriate in the clinical environment. Similarly, casual denim wear, cargo pants, and sports garb (sweatsuits, yoga pants, etc) are too casual for our typical clinical context.
- **Shoes** should look professional and be appropriate for the health setting. Closed toed shoes are encouraged for the safety of the patient and the clinician. Shoes that are not appropriate include: excessively high platform shoes, Crocs, hiking boots, sneakers, flip flops, or athletic footwear.
- **Hair color** should be professionally appropriate; style neat, and in clean condition.
- **Torso or arm tattoos and body art** must be concealed.
- **Finger nails** should be trimmed to a reasonable length that will not pose any risk to the patient (including cleanliness).
- **Tongue piercing adornments** must be removed prior to interaction with clients.
- **Body hygiene** should be maintained so as to be inoffensive (e.g., no perfume, cologne, cigarette, or body odor).

For women

- **Skirts and dresses** are to be a sensible length (no more than 3 inches above the knee), allowing you to perform duties in a modest manner. Miniskirts are not acceptable.
- **Blouses and tops** should be modest and of a professional fit and length. Tops should adequately cover the neckline so that cleavage is not exposed, and are long enough to cover the midriff. In other words, low cut tops, revealing undergarments or bare torso, are not appropriate.
For men

- **Shirts** with a collar and long pants are required.
- If **facial hair** is preferred, it should be well trimmed and clean.

Some off-site clinical placements have stricter dress codes than those above. Students are responsible for learning and following the dress code for off-site locations.

Consult your clinical instructor if you have any questions.

Demeanor Policy

Establishing good rapport with our patients is essential to optimize their treatment. It is extremely important that the clinician creates an environment of respect, trust and safety for the patient. The following are suggestions that clinicians should adhere to:

- Address patients with appropriate titles (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr.), unless the patient has specifically requested otherwise.
- Introduce yourself as a graduate student and greet the patient at the beginning of each appointment/or in the waiting room.
- Do not accept gifts valued at greater than $10.00 from patients. Politely decline and recommend that they donate to a scholarship if they would like to provide a financial gift.
- Be polite and respectful.

Please sign and return the attached signature page to indicate that you have read and agree to adhere to the Dress and Demeanor Policy.
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My signature below indicates that I have read the Dress and Demeanor Policy for clinical practicum and that I agree with its contents. Compliance with this policy is expected in order to achieve satisfactory progress in the program.

______________________  ______________________  ____________________
Print Name                  Signature                    Date

Return to:
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The University of Arizona
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Tucson, AZ 85721-0071
Attn: Denise Minopoli