

UBC School of Nursing Policy	Approval Date: Sept 25, 2008
	Date of last revision: Sept 2021
Title: Professional Appearance for Practice Learning Experiences	
Responsible Executive: Associate Director, Undergraduate Program	

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to present a professional image appearance in the practice setting. The expectations for professional appearance in practice learning is guided by principles of:

- professionalism
- infection control
- personal safety
- role identification

Good judgment should be exercised when making decisions as to what is appropriate appearance in a given practice experience. If an agency has specific requirements not covered by this policy, students must confirm to those requirements. Consideration may be made for individual dress that is specific to cultural or religious beliefs, typically in consultation with practice course leaders and clinical instructors.

Policy:

- Professionalism

Principle: To enhance professionalism by presenting a professional appearance

- a. Students must wear a standard UBC School of Nursing uniform in agencies where a uniform is required.
- b. Neat, clean, appropriate clothing must be worn in settings where uniforms are not required (i.e. community). Jeans are not usually acceptable.

Presenting a professional appearance can enhance the development of a respectful relationship with clients and enhance personal safety. Therefore, in practice learning experiences students are required to:

- Ensure abdomen, back, chest, shoulders, and upper thighs are fully covered through all range of movement while providing client care
 - Avoid casual clothing such as sweatshirts as over garments
 - Ensure that pant legs are hemmed above the heel line
 - Consult with the PCL and CI regarding any concerns or questions that may arise related to professional appearance
- c. Students who do not conform to the requirements for professional appearance may be asked to leave the practice learning area. Any time away from practice learning experiences will then be considered under the conditions outlined in the BSN Missed Practice Learning policy. This will delay their practice learning experience and potentially impede their ability

to meet the course learning objectives and BSN practice competencies to successfully pass the course.

- d. While on a practicum site, students also must follow any directions from the practicum agency regarding professional appearance, infection control, personal safety and professional standards.

- Infection Control

Principle: To prevent the spread of infection and maintain aseptic technique

Hair

- o Neat, clean and off the face.
- o Long hair to be tied back and off the collar/shoulder.
- o Facial hair must be clean, trimmed or neatly secured

Fingernails

- o Short - no more than 3mm in length
- o No fingernail polish, artificial nails and/or nail extenders.
- o No nail jewelry

Jewelry

- o Must be kept to a minimum (e.g. religious artefacts of faith, a plain wedding band, small non-dangling earrings and medical alert bracelets).
- o Small stud(s) only in any visible body piercing.
- o No wrist watches – pocket watches recommended

Clothing

- o Uniform is clean, in good condition and conforms to the UBC SoN Standard.
- o Shoes are clean, dedicated to practice and not used for day to day wear (see additional requirements below for safety and/or agency guidelines where applicable).

- Personal Safety

Principle: To maintain personal safety while in the practice setting

Shoes – Worksafe BC (2017) provides guidelines and requirements for safe footwear that apply in the practice setting. The purpose of these requirements is to provide additional protection from: slippage, penetration or puncture from a sharp object, exposure to hazardous material of fluid spill, abrasion, cuts or bruising.

- o Style – footwear that completely enclose the foot from heel to toe including covering the top side of the foot (metatarsal)
- o Sole - Non-wooden; slip resistant.
- o Athletic Shoes - must be all leather, no mesh or thin material

- Role Identification

Principle: To promote communication of student or clinical faculty role by clearly identifying name and position

Students are required to wear School of Nursing photo Identification in all practice settings for identification and liability purposes. Some practice settings also require agency photo identification.

Related policies:

- *Requisites for BSN Practice Education*
- *BSN Professional Conduct*
- *Student Misconduct*

References:

Worksafe BC (2017) - Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, Section 8.22 Footwear [Amended by B.C. Reg. 140/2017, effective April 7, 2017.] (<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-08-personal-protective-clothing-and-equipment#SectionNumber:8.22>)