PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE AND GUIDE FOR PERSONAL APPEARANCE

The personal appearance and demeanor of every person affects, either directly or indirectly, the care and management of patients. The image communicated to patients through personal attire and appearance, behaviors and interactions will influence their perceptions of the quality of care they will receive at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and their confidence in the person providing that care. A presentation of professionalism is essential to uphold the standards of excellence set by the University of Minnesota, the School of Dentistry, and the dental profession.

Dentists, in their own practices, will decide for themselves what appearance promotes a demeanor of professionalism. Throughout the School of Dentistry this is best accomplished by a reasonable degree of conformity in attire and grooming. All faculty, staff and students are responsible for maintaining a clean, neat and well fitting wardrobe.

The following guidelines apply for all DDS, DH and DT students:
Personal hygiene and grooming habits are essential components of professional appearance and presentation.

- **Hair**: (including beards and mustaches) should be clean, neatly trimmed, and well maintained. Those who shave must be clean-shaven. Long hair should be pinned or held back so that it does not interfere with the field of vision or require handling during treatment procedures.
- **Makeup and perfume/after-shave**: Strong perfumes and cologne may be offensive to others or may cause allergic reactions; therefore avoid excessive use. Heavy application of make-up should also be avoided.
- **Personal hygiene**: Body hygiene is required so that offensive body odor is avoided. Fingernails should be trimmed, clean and well groomed. Artificial nails are not allowed as they may harbor microorganisms.
- **Jewelry**: Rings that may compromise clinical protective barriers should not be worn in clinics. All watches, necklaces, etc. must be covered by protective barriers such as the blue clinic gown. No facial piercing should be evident during the school/clinic day (i.e. no rings or studs may be worn on the face or in the mouth). Tattoos must be covered in clinic.

All students will wear the School of Dentistry matching scrub shirt, pants, and/or skirt in the color designated for their program (navy blue for DDS students, burgundy for DH students, black for DT students). Scrub pants and skirts should not touch or drag the ground when standing or seated. Scrubs must be maintained in a clean, neat, and professional manner. Any head coverings such as hijabs, yamakas, etc. and/or face veils must be changed or washed daily. In addition, clean, predominately white, black or color matching shoes (closed-toed and fluid resistant) and white socks (crew length or longer) are required. We suggest these shoes be worn only in Moos Tower so they remain clean and professional in their appearance. Skirts must be at or below the knee. Legs must be cover with nude, black, or color matching hoses, tights, or scrub pants. Students may wear white, black, or color matching tee shirts underneath their scrub tops, if desired. Nametags must be visible.

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