



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

School of Medicine

*Operating Policy and Procedure*

**SOM OP:** 40.10, **Personal Appearance Policy**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this School of Medicine (SOM) policy and procedure is to define expectations for student appearance in patient care activities.

**REVIEW:** This SOM Policy and Procedure shall be reviewed within each even-numbered fiscal year by the Curriculum and Educational Policy Committee. Revisions will be forwarded to the Office of the Dean for approval and publication.

**POLICY/PROCEDURE:**

1. **General.** This policy is intended to provide guidelines for students concerning expectations for personal appearance in patient care activities. It has been developed to help ensure the SOM maintains compliance with Liaison Committee on Medical Education element 3.5.
2. **Purpose:** To support positive and successful patient care, students should dress in a professional manner and maintain proper hygiene in all clinical activities with patients, both real and standardized.
3. These guidelines represent general expectations. Clerkship-specific instructions will be provided if these personal appearance expectations interfere with patient care or if local site expectation differ from these guidelines.
  - a) TTUHSC Identification badges are to be worn at all times
  - b) White coats should be worn in patient care activities and should be regularly laundered.
  - c) Hair should be visibly clean and groomed.
  - d) Facial hair should be kept trimmed and clean.
  - e) Fingernails should be kept clean and short.
  - f) Jewelry should not pose a safety concern.
  - g) Strong perfumes, cologne or other scents should be avoided
  - h) General guidelines for Clothing**
    - i) Dress should not interfere with patient care activities
    - ii) Clothing should be clean and neat.
    - iii) Shirts, tops or blouses should not have low cut necklines and exposed midriffs.
    - iv) Shorts, T-shirts, and tank tops are not allowed.
    - v) Dresses or skirts should be no shorter than just above knee-level.
    - vi) Shoes should be clean and close-toed.