

University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse Occupational Therapy Program Dress Code Policy

Students in the program are expected to represent the program, university and themselves in a professional manner. These guidelines are intended to present the student with a positive, professional presence.

Classroom Attire

Generally casual clothing of choice is acceptable. When guest speakers are scheduled or patients are attending the class or lab, students are requested to wear name tags with class shirt and khaki pants unless otherwise instructed by the course instructor.

Lab Attire

In some clinical lab courses, appropriate lab attire will be specified in the syllabus. Students attending lab without the proper attire will be asked to change into appropriate clothing prior to participating in the lab. Generally, lab attire includes shorts, preferably knit not denim, to allow free movement and coverage of underclothes. Men should wear t-shirts and women should wear a halter top, bathing suit top or sports bra. Nails should be kept clean and clipped short enough to permit handling a lab partner without scraping or gouging.

The anatomy lab requires a lab coat and wearing close toed shoes.

Community and Fieldwork Placements

The academic fieldwork coordinator and/or course instructor will cover dress code requirements for specific clinical experiences in the community. In general, students should expect to wear:

- Name tag
- Closed toe shoes.
 - It's a safety (maximum stability when transferring patients) and infection control issue
- Clothing generally **not allowed** in clinics include:
 - Halter tops
 - Sports Bras
 - Cleavage
 - Bare midriff
 - Low worn pants
 - Short tops
 - Capri pants
 - Sleeveless shirts
 - Obvious undergarments
 - Shorts
 - Obvious body piercing or tattoos
 - T-shirts with any advertising or slogans

- Each facility will have a dress code which the student is expected to understand and follow. Different types of dress is allowed when working with children than with older adults. Types of interventions used also influence dress: sports medicine differs from a hospital setting.
- Some clientele may respond more or less favorably to visible body piercing, tattoos, and unconventional hairstyles.

In fieldwork placements, dress according to the dress code of the facility. Clothing choices within the dress codes should be made with safety and professionalism as the first priority and personal expression of identity of secondary importance.