Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne
Communication Sciences and Disorders

**POLICY**

Student Clinician Dress Code

**Rationale for policy:**

Students performing clinical activities need to dress in a way that is appropriate for the therapy arena. Clients are often distracted by what they see, therefore modest dress is appropriate. People of certain cultures/ages are offended by what may be viewed as acceptable by others. It is important to err on the side of conservative dress.

Clients of impaired cognition may use the clinician’s items of clothing as possible weapons against the clinician. All care should be taken to prevent any undo distress to either party in the clinical situation.

Every precaution is taken to prevent the spread of germs/diseases in the therapy situation. Body piercings, long fingernails, etc. may allow for the spread of such and therefore are not allowed.

**Violation of policy:**

Should a clinician arrive inappropriately dressed, and should an acceptable compromise not be determined at that time, the Supervisor has the right to cancel the clinical session.

- First offense – no loss of points for the week and the student clinician and supervisor will meet to discuss appropriate dress.

- Second and third offense – loss of the points for the week and the student clinician and supervisor will meet to discuss appropriate dress. The clinician will also be warned that further disregard for the policy will result in termination from the clinical semester.

- Fourth offense - The student will be dismissed from the clinical semester.

**General Dress code:**

- Dress code for the day is 'Business Casual'
- Examples of ‘Business Casual’ may include clothing such as:
  - clean slacks, sweaters, collared or polo shirts, etc.
  - clean body and hair
- You may not wear jeans, sweatshirts, sweatpants, sandals or open toed-shoes, or any clothing that is inappropriate in a professional work environment. Any accessories are not to impede performance in the therapy session.
Specifics for Men's Business Casual

Ties:
Ties are generally not necessary for business casual, but if you are in doubt, you can wear a tie. It never hurts to slightly overdress; by dressing nicely, you pay a compliment to your client.

Shirts:
Long-sleeved shirts are considered dressier than short-sleeved and are appropriate even in summer. Choosing white or light blue solid, or conservative stripes is your safest bet. Polo shirts (tucked in, of course) are acceptable in more casual situations.

Socks:
Wear dark socks, mid-calf length so no skin is visible when you sit down.

Shoes:
Leather shoes should be worn. No sandals, athletic shoes or hiking boots.

Facial hair:
Facial hair, if worn, should be well-groomed. Be aware that too much facial hair can obscure your mouth/lips. If the client is to take cues from the position of your lips, this can impede what s/he can see.

Hair:
Hair will be clean and neatly groomed. Hair that falls in the eyes or falls forward must have some practical method of restraint in order to prevent the hair from having to be manipulated during the session.

Observe other men in this career path if you are unsure what is appropriate or are considering changing your look.

Nails: Moderately short, clean, well rounded.

Jewelry / body piercings and art / accessories:
Wear a conservative watch. If you choose to wear other jewelry, be conservative. Don't wear earrings. Observe other men in your industry to see what is acceptable.

Jewelry:
A wedding ring may be worn. Use good judgment with regard to other jewelry. (Necklaces can be grabbed by clients and be broken or pulled. Bracelets, earrings that dangle, and large rings can be distracting for the client.)

Body Piercings:
No other pierced jewelry is allowed (eg. tongue, lip, eyebrow, nose, cheek or any other.) Any visible pierced jewelry must be removed when delivering clinical services.

Tattoos:
Tattoos may not be visible; they must be covered when the student is in a clinical setting.

Accessories: Accessories should be in keeping with modest dress and will not interfere with performance of therapy

After shave/cologne products:
None is better than some; and a lot of aftershave or cologne is never appropriate. Many clients will have allergies to these products so it is better for them that you do not wear scents.
Specifics for Women's Business Casual

Don't confuse club attire with business attire. If you would wear it to a club, you probably should not wear it in a business environment. Also, most attire worn on television is not appropriate for business environments. Don't be deluded.

Any clothing that allows views of cleavage, back or stomach skin or that is short enough to be distracting, should not be worn for clinic.

**Pants / skirts:**
Women can wear casual pants or skirts. Neither should be tight. Fabrics should be crisp; colors should generally be solid; navy, black, gray, brown and khaki are always safe bets. For the most business-like appearance, pants should be creased and tailored; neither extreme of tight or flowing.

No jean or sweat pants material is appropriate to wear for therapy sessions. If your client requires you to be on the floor, be sure your clothing will be suitable for that type of therapy.

**Skirt length and slits:**
Your skirt should come at least to your knees while you are standing. While you are seated, your thighs should be covered. If your skirt comes to just below the knee, a slit to just above the knee might be acceptable. A very long skirt should not be slit to above the knee. Generally slits in the center back of a skirt — to facilitate walking a stair climbing — are acceptable.

**Shirt / sweaters:**
In addition to tailored shirts or blouses, tailored knit sweaters and sweater sets are appropriate business casual choices for women. Cotton, silk, and blends are appropriate. Velvets and shimmery fabrics suitable for parties are not appropriate. Fit should not be tight.

**Undergarments:**
Appropriate undergarments are to be worn and should not be visible by the client. Socks (with slacks) or hosiery (with slacks/dresses/skirts) will be worn.

**Jewelry / Body piercings and art / Accessories:**

**Jewelry:** Wear a conservative watch. Wedding rings and engagement rings only may be worn. Use good judgment with regard to other jewelry. (Necklaces can be grabbed by clients and be broken or pulled. Bracelets, earrings that dangle, and large rings can be distracting for the client.) Small stud earrings pierced or not pierced can be worn. No earrings, except 1 small stud per ear.

**Body Piercings:**
No other pierced jewelry is allowed (eg. tongue, lip, eyebrow, nose, cheek or any other.) Any visible pierced jewelry must be removed when delivering clinical services.

**Tattoos:**
Tattoos may not be visible; they must be covered when the student is in a clinical setting.

**Accessories:**
Jewelry and scarf and jacket/vest styles come and go. Keep your choices simple and leaning toward conservative. Avoid extremes of style and color.
Shoes:
Should be leather or fabric/microfiber. Appropriate colors are black, navy and brown to coordinate with your other attire and accessories; white and pastels are typically not appropriate unless they coordinate with the attire.

Toes and heels must be covered

Thin straps, high heels, chunky heels, clogs, and platforms are not appropriate. Make certain you can walk comfortably in your shoes; hobbling around the clinic area in shoes that are pinching your feet does not convey a professional image.

Perfumes/colognes/bath products that are scented:
None is better than some and a lot of aftershave or cologne is never appropriate. Many clients will have allergies to these products so it is better for them that you do not wear scents.

Nails: Moderately short, clean, well rounded. Fingernail polish is allowed as long as the polish is not chipped or of a color that will detract from the therapy session. Fingernail manipulation/biting/etc. is not permitted during therapy or supervisory sessions.

Hair:
Hair will be clean and neatly groomed. Hair that falls in the eyes or falls forward must have some practical method of restraint (bobby pins, barrettes, clips, scrunchies, bows, ties, ribbons, rubber bands, etc.) in order to prevent the hair from having to be manipulated during the session.