



BSN Program Requirement | Standard

Professional Appearance

As an ambassador for the School of Nursing and for the profession of nursing, the image students present reflects perceived professionalism within the community. Students are required to exercise sound judgement and present themselves with a professional appearance in all practice settings while enrolled in the UBC Okanagan School of Nursing.

The following standard serves to support best practices for safety and infection control. In the event the agency has specific or different professional appearance guidelines not covered in the following, students will abide by the agency requirements. Students requesting accommodation to standardized uniforms and professional appearance for cultural and/or religious needs should email the Assistant Director.

Failure to consistently adhere to the Professional Appearance Standard may result in students not meeting the required professional responsibility competencies and could result in a failed standing in a practice course. Students whose appearance is not in accordance with this standard may be required to immediately leave the practice setting in order to take corrective action.

Agencies Where a Uniform is Required

Standardized Uniforms

A standardized nursing uniform is mandatory for all students. Standardized uniforms are required to be worn in the nursing lab on campus and in most clinical settings.

- Students are required to purchase two scrub pants and two scrub tops.
- Optional standardized vests and jackets are also available for purchase. Students are NOT permitted to wear non-standardized vests, jackets, or sweaters over their uniforms.
- Students who do not have standardized uniforms will not be permitted in the practice setting. Loss of practice experience may result in an inability for the student to demonstrate meeting the required practice competencies and therefore may result in a failed standing in the practice course.

Where and how to acquire the standardized uniform

1. Students go to the UBC Bookstore to try on the uniforms, vests, and jackets. The bookstore will stock a full-size run in all styles.
2. Students will place an order online at [UBC Okanagan Bookstore | Nursing](#)
3. In October, a bulk order is placed for first year students. First year students are required to place an order by the posted deadline. Failure to place an order will be considered unprofessional performance. Additionally, the student will have to purchase a navy-blue nonstandard uniform to wear to nursing labs until they are able to obtain UBCO uniforms.
4. Once students have placed an order, the uniforms will be embroidered with the UBCO Logo and therefore are non-refundable. It is very important to try the uniforms on, before ordering online.
5. Students will receive their uniforms, vests, and jackets via a bulk order delivered to the UBC bookstore approximately three weeks after the bulk order is placed.
6. Students who wish to place additional orders, after the initial bulk order goes out, may do so. The bookstore will retain the order until the bookstore has four similar orders to maintain bulk pricing.

General Uniform Expectations

All uniforms are required to be worn in a manner that supports a professional appearance. The following requirements support a professional appearance:

- Uniforms are required to be appropriate in size and length. Pants are not to touch the floor. Students must be able to sit, bend and raise arms while ensuring that abdomens, backs, chests and shoulders are covered.
- Uniforms are required to be clean, wrinkle free, and in good condition.
- A solid coloured black, white, or navy tee-shirt type top, with short or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves may be worn under the uniform top if desired.
- To support infection control procedures, students should change into their uniforms upon arriving to their practice site, and should change out of their uniforms before leaving practice.



Agencies Where a Uniform is Not Required

Community agencies and acute mental health units often do not have nursing staff wear uniforms. Generally, the expectations are 'office attire' or 'business casual attire'.

Each context may have unique and specific guidelines. These guidelines will be provided to you by the course teacher (i.e. in the course syllabus, welcome packages, orientation, learning activity, Canvas etc.). Nursing students need to clarify with their practice teacher/supervisor what is considered professional clothing in each context. It is the students' responsibility to seek this information.

In addition to the agency guidelines, all nursing students must adhere to the principle of business casual attire (unless directed otherwise by the agency), including:

- No athletic wear.
- Clothes should not impede one's range of motion in performing work duties (e.g. too tight or too loose). Leggings are acceptable if worn with a long shirt or tunic.
- Generally, no denim pants (jeans) are permitted. If permitted, they must not be faded or ripped.
- Ensure that abdomens, backs, chests, shoulders and upper thighs are fully covered through all range of movement while giving patient care.

General Requirements for all Contexts

Shoes

Nursing students are required to have shoes that meet [WCB standards](#) and that support a professional appearance. There are no standardized shoes required. Students may purchase shoes that are specifically designed for nursing or they may choose other walking type shoes. Athletic shoes are permitted. All footwear must meet the following:

- Designed for safety and walking (non-slip with good support).
- Closed toe & heel. Clogs with open heels are NOT permitted.

Identification

All UBC Okanagan Nursing students are required to wear UBC Okanagan, School of Nursing, photo identification at all times while in any practice setting. Photo identification must be worn as to be visible to patients, families, health care providers, and agency staff. Professional standards require nurses to clearly and accurately represent self with respect to name, title and role. Please refer to [BCCNM's Nursing Standard 4: Ethical Practice](#) for more information.

Required Equipment

Students are required to have, on their person, in the practice settings:

- Digital or analog watch with seconds indicated
 - Watches may be carried on your person in a pocket or they may be a lapel style watch pinned to your uniform. Watches are NOT to be worn on the wrist.
- Stethoscope
- Pen with blue or black ink

Optional Equipment

Students may wish to purchase and carry the following:

- Penlight
- Bandage scissors
- Small notepad
- Medication cards



Cell Phones

Cellular phones are now encouraged in many of the practice settings to provide access to Nursing Central resources. Students must demonstrate professional responsibility and accountability at all times. The following expectations must be adhered to:

- Use of the cellular phone is restricted to accessing clinical resources only.
- Using cellular phones for personal information or communication is strictly prohibited.
- Taking photos is strictly prohibited.
- All sounds on the cellular phone must be turned off.
- Cellular phones may be carried in uniform pocket but must be kept discrete.
- Student cell phone use is required to adhere to the following related standards:

Appropriate use of Social Media Standard:

<https://nursing.ok.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2016/02/Appropriate-Use-of-Social-Media.pdf>

Appropriate Use of Electronic Devices Standard:

<https://nursing.cms.ok.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2015/09/Appropriate-Use-of-Electronic-Devices.pdf>

Jewellery & Accessories

Jewellery should be simple and minimal. Jewellery can harbour microorganisms and may pose other safety risks. In compliance with infection control and safety best practices, the following expectations must be adhered to:

- Hand and wrist jewellery are not permitted. However, religious and medical bracelets are permitted providing they do not interfere with client safety and meet infection, prevention, & control standards. Please consult with the Assistant Director for accommodations as needed.
- Necklaces are NOT permitted for students in emergency departments and acute mental health for safety reasons.
- Necklaces and all piercings should be small and simple in appearance.
- Necklaces and all piercings should have the ability to give/break if pulled or caught.
- No accessories that may pose risk to self or others (i.e. no neck scarves in acute care mental health)

Hair

Hair should be clean and neat in appearance. In compliance with infection control and safety best practices, the following expectations must be adhered to:

- Cranial and facial hair must be confined, or worn at a length that will prevent it from being snagged or caught. Long hair should be secured in a manner that prevents it from coming into contact with patients and equipment.
- Facial hair must facilitate respirator fit. However, students with beards for religious or cultural observances may consult with the Assistant Director for accommodations.
- False eyelashes should be discreet, well maintained, and intact.
- Religious head covers must be fastened securely.

Hand Hygiene

Hands and fingernails will be clean and in healthy condition. In compliance with infection control and safety best practices, the following expectations must be adhered to:

- Fingernails will not be grown or felt past the tip of the finger.
- False nails such as acrylic nails, gel nails, and shellac are not permitted.
- Nail polish of any color is not permitted (including clear).

Please refer to the [Government of B.C. Hand Hygiene Best Practice Guidelines](#) for additional information.

Fragrances

All students are required to avoid the use of scented products on self and clothing in all practice settings (i.e. avoid using perfumes and cologne, and scented products such as: after-shave, lotions, shampoos, conditioners, body wash, deodorants, antiperspirants, laundry products, cleansers, cosmetics, hairsprays, air fresheners, etc.).

Please note that UBC Okanagan has implemented a voluntary Scent Free Program for when you are on campus:

- Please refer to [UBC Risk Management Services Scent Free Education & Awareness](#) for more information.