

School of CSD
Requirements for Graduate Students in Clinical Settings:
Name Tags, Clinical Dress Codes, and Professional Behavior
[Appendix 2B]

Expectations of students in clinical settings is inclusive of screenings, observations, and practicum placements and applies to in-person service delivery, online service delivery, and professional team meetings conducted in person or online.

Name Tags

Students are required to wear Pacific University name tags at all times in clinical sites and clinical experiences.

Clinical Dress Codes

Clinical sites nearly always have a policy related to expectations for appearance, hygiene, and clothing (most often called a dress code).

Students are expected to adhere to the expectations of any site at which they are placed. It is recommended that students request the site policy (dress code) together with other policies from their supervisor prior to their first day on-site.

Expectations for dress and/or appearance vary based on the populations served, safety considerations, and the culture of the setting. Some typical expectations include:

Hygiene and Grooming

- No fragrance. This includes perfume/cologne, as well as body and breath odor.
- Minimal or no jewelry.
- In some settings long hair must be tied back.
- Facial hair should be neatly trimmed or shaved. Some sites may have specific facial hair policies including those related to fitting of PPE.
- Nails should be clean and trimmed.
- Nail color should be professional and without apparent chips. Some healthcare settings prohibit artificial nails and/or nail polish/gels.

Clothing (includes coats, bags, clipboards, or other materials brought into the clinic setting)

- Professional dress is generally expected to be neat in appearance, but need not be expensive.
- Be mindful and adhere to site and university restrictions related to advertising, promotion of political parties or candidates, or other restrictions such as logos or images.
- General expectations are that shoulders, midriff, knees, and toes are covered.
- Denim, leggings, shorts, and short skirts are often prohibited.

- Please give consideration to activities required at the site to ensure clothing provides required coverage when fulfilling those requirements such as reaching, bending, playing on the floor with a child, or facilitating wheelchair transfers.
- Footwear:
 - Comfortable, sensible shoes are recommended. Expect to walk a lot in some settings.
 - Some settings permit athletic shoes, while others may prohibit sneakers, athletic shoes, or shoes with large logos.
 - Nearly all settings require shoes with closed toes and heel protection. This is a safety precaution to reduce risk of injury from equipment including anything dropped and/or splashes or risk of infection from body fluids.
 - Socks may be required and discrete “footie” socks and hosiery are often acceptable to meet this standard.
 - High heels are often prohibited or discouraged, however a low-mid heel is usually acceptable.

Body Art, Piercings, and Tattoos

- Some sites restrict jewelry or specify limits on piercings. Common examples include:
 - maximum of 2 small earrings per ear
 - nose piercing limited to small stud
 - other visible piercings/bars/spacers may be required to be removed while on-site
- Some sites require that all tattoos be covered at all times on site. Some sites may allow visible tattoos, but require that specific types of tattoos be covered at all times on site. Examples include, but are not limited to, requiring that tattoos that depict logos, profanity, violence, racist, sexist, or xenophobic symbols or words be covered.

Professional Behavior during Clinical Experiences

- Eat, caffeinate, and hydrate yourself before you arrive to your clinical site. You should expect that you will not eat or drink while providing patient/client care in most settings. You may bring a water bottle and pack a meal or snacks for designated breaks. Some sites permit covered coffee cups or water bottles, while others prohibit any eating or drinking in patient care areas.
- Chewing gum is strongly discouraged and may be prohibited by sites; breath fresheners are okay as long as they are discrete.
- Arrive well-rested, healthy, and motivated to work and learn each day.
- Exchange contact information with your site supervisor so you can reach them as needed and vice versa.
- If you are ill, give your supervisor notice of your absence promptly and directly, then report your absence to the Director of Clinical Education.
- Arrive early every day and always allow extra time for travel.

- Silence or power off all electronic devices/cell phones and avoid using them during clinical time.
- Come prepared for your clients and bring any basic supplies such as a notepad and pen.
- Save discussion, comments, and questions for after client sessions, unless otherwise arranged with supervisor.
- Demonstrate a commitment to learning by seeking new ideas, trying out new methods, and completing all assignments.
- Demonstrate self-advocacy by asking questions, seeking feedback and clarification, accepting constructive criticism, and implementing suggestions in a timely manner.
- Seek support from your Pacific University clinical advisor and/or student support if you are not sure about how to address a problem or concern that arises in a clinical site.
- Referrals, recommendations, or advice shared with clients always requires the approval of your supervisor.
- Respond to all emails regarding clinic (from supervisor, site staff, or clinical faculty) within 24 hours.
- Adhere to the policies and procedures of the site including all those associated with clinical documentation. Communicate with your supervisor clearly and early if you are likely to miss deadlines for documentation or other required aspects of clinical service delivery so they are not out of compliance with the site's policies.
- Send a thank you card to every supervisor and other supportive individuals at your site in follow up to any observation, interview, or at the conclusion of a practicum placement.