

**The University of Arizona  
Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic Policy**

**DRESS AND DEMEANOR EXPECTATIONS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICUM**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to define the expectations of the **University of Arizona Speech-Language and Hearing Clinics** regarding personal appearance and attire of clinicians and staff while in clinical settings. **Off-site placements will have different dress codes and students are responsible for following them.**

**Policy**

We aim to provide a pleasant and professional environment for the clients and patients who are served in our clinic. Part of the atmosphere is conveyed through our outer presentation. Accordingly, when working in the clinic, students should consider what attire is appropriate to the setting, task, and population. If a student is dressed inappropriately for clinical practicum or in a way that prevents the client or family from participating in sessions, they may be asked to leave and return once they are appropriately dressed.

The following list is designed to provide guidance:

- **Clothes** should be neat, clean and wrinkle-free.
- **Attire** must cover the chest, torso, buttocks, and undergarments when standing, sitting, and working in the clinic. Clothing must not be shorter than 6 inches above the knees when seated.
- **Shorts, jeans, and athleisure clothes** should not be worn in clinic. The exception is that shorts are allowed for sessions completed outdoors (following length requirements above).
- **Shoes** should look professional (i.e., clean, no flip flops) and be appropriate for the healthcare setting. Closed-toed shoes are required for the audiology and voice evaluation.
- **Hair, including facial hair**, should be clean and well maintained. We support the [CROWN Act](#).
- **Fingernails** should be clean and smooth so that you can safely complete all clinic activities.
- **Tongue/facial piercing adornments** can be distracting to some clients and unsafe for clinicians when interacting with some clients. We encourage, though do not require, removal prior to interaction with clients/patients.
- **Scents and body odors** should be neutral. They can cause allergic reactions for others. Maintain hygiene and avoid strong scents such as perfumes, colognes, scented lotions, or the odor of tobacco products.

If you have questions relative to your current assignments/placements, confer with your clinical instructor.

***Demeanor Policy***

Establishing good rapport with our patients is essential to optimize their treatment. It is extremely important that the clinician creates an environment of respect, trust and safety for the patient. The following are suggestions that clinicians should adhere to:

- Introduce yourself as a graduate student and greet the client at the beginning of each appointment.
- Be polite and respectful in all interactions. Address patients with appropriate titles (e.g., Dr., Ms., Mx., Mr.), unless the patient specifically requests otherwise.
- Do not accept gifts valued at greater than \$10.00 from patients. Politely decline and recommend that they donate to a scholarship if they would like to provide a financial gift.