



Veterinary Medical Technology Program Student Handbook

Subject: Professional Dress Policy

Section: Academic Undergrad (VMT)

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To Be Reviewed Yearly by: VMT Director, CVM
Policies and Procedures Committee

Source: VMTP Student Handbook

Cross Reference:

Professional Dress Policy

Dress policy for VMT Students:

Guidelines for Professional Dress (as appears in the "Veterinary Medical Technology Program Student Handbook" which is effective as of 2012 for academic year 2012 - 2013)

Dress standards contain components relating both to professionalism and to practical application. VMT students must adhere to the following guidelines and specifications. It is the intent of this document to clarify further dress standards within the facility and to provide guidance to faculty and students.

These guidelines apply during normal business hours, and in any situation not specifically covered under another subheading.

1. *Classrooms and during non-laboratory times and college sponsored meetings:*

General – Applies to all students

- MSU-CVM VMT student IDs are to be worn in the building at all times.
- Visible body piercings except ears are not acceptable.
- Care should be taken to cover visible tattoos when practical, feasible.
- All clothing is to be clean and in good repair. Clothing should not be provocative. Clothing that reveals excessive cleavage, or the back, chest, stomach or underwear of the wearer is not appropriate.
- Hair is to be clean and dry, and should be professional in appearance (only natural hair colors are appropriate).

- Hats or head coverings of any kind are not appropriate except for medical conditions. Head covers that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural tradition are allowed but student should make VMT administration aware of religious/cultural beliefs to support the head dress.
- Unless specified by an instructor, laboratory attire is not acceptable in a non-laboratory setting.
- Scrub tops and pants may not be worn into or out of the building as the student is going to or from the laboratory setting. OSHA regulations warrant that students **not** enter or exit the building wearing soiled laboratory attire.
- Game day dress is allocated for Fridays during football season only. Game day dress is defined as Khakis or nice slacks with an MSU polo shirt. Shirts without the MSU log must be black, maroon, white, or grey. Game day dress is NOT appropriate on days were there are major MSU-CVM meetings (ex: MVMA). All footwear rules still apply. Violations will result in this privilege being revoked.
- Sweatshirts/ hooded sweatshirts are not appropriate at anytime while enrolled in VMTP.

Men

- Long- or short-sleeved shirts with collars are acceptable.
- Long-sleeved turtleneck shirts or sweaters are acceptable.
- Slacks are acceptable. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans or denim of any kind (including Carhartt), sweatpants, exercise pants, shorts of any kind, bib overalls, leggings, and any spandex or other form-fitting pants.
- Socks that cover the ankles are to be worn. Conservative walking shoes, loafers, clogs, boots (clean and in good repair), and leather deck-type shoes are acceptable. Athletic shoes, flip-flops, sandals or slippers are not acceptable.

Women

- Business appropriate dresses and skirts that are split just above, at or below the knee are acceptable. Dress and skirt length should be at a length at which the student can sit comfortably in public. Mini-skirts, skorts, sun dresses, peasant dresses/skirts, beach dresses, and spaghetti strap dresses are inappropriate. Low-cut blouses which reveal cleavage are unacceptable. Cleavage should also not be visible (front or back) when bending over.
- Blouses, dress shirts, polo shirts, sweaters, tops, and turtlenecks are acceptable attire. Inappropriate attire includes tank tops; midriff tops; shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter-tops; sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, and t-shirts; and tops with bare shoulders or spaghetti straps, unless* worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress. (*Example: spaghetti-strap top worn under an open blouse)

- Polo shirts are only appropriate on Friday during football season (game day dress policy).
- Dress slacks are acceptable both in full and crop length. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans or denim of any kind, sweatpants, exercise pants, shorts of any kind, bib overalls, leggings*, and any spandex or other formfitting pants such as people wear for biking. (* Example: leggings worn underneath a dress or skirt)
- Conservative walking shoes, loafers, clogs, boots (clean and in good repair; not traditional work boots), flats, dress heels, backless sandals and leather deck-type shoes are acceptable with or without socks or stockings.
- Athletic shoes, flip-flops, UGG boots, or slippers are not acceptable. Closed toe shoes are required in all laboratory areas as outlined below in *Laboratories*.

2. *Laboratories:*

- A clean lab coat worn over classroom clothes is acceptable dress unless otherwise stated by the laboratory instructor. Athletic shoes are acceptable in laboratory settings **only**. Students attending laboratories taught in the Animal Health Center should dress according to the standards set forth by the laboratory instructor. If no dress is stated in the AHC, it is expected to be khaki's, polo shirt, and lab jacket unless surgery and anesthesia areas are entered (in these areas you will need scrubs and a lab jacket). OSHA regulations warrant that students **not** enter or exit the building wearing laboratory attire. Health and safety concerns dictate that dirty laboratory clothing be bundled for removal from the building.
- Jewelry may be harmful to students working with animals and may be harmful to animals/patients as well. Therefore, wearing jewelry should be limited. It is suggested that if students wear earrings, studs should be worn versus hoops and dangling earrings that animals could get entangled in. Likewise, it is advisable to wear short necklaces and bracelets that fit close to the body.
- Athletic shoes are acceptable in laboratory settings **only**. Shoes should have a rubber sole for safety. Shoes should always be clean, dry, and in good repair. Open toed shoes are not allowed under any circumstance in the clinical and lab settings.
- Scrub tops and pants may not be worn into or out of the building as the student is going to or from the laboratory setting. OSHA regulations warrant that students not enter or exit the building wearing laboratory attire.

3. *The Animal Health Center:*

Students are expected to **enter and leave** the Animal Health Center in dress appropriate for the classroom. Specific dress for selected areas is to be determined by the appropriate Service Chiefs and will be in the class/lab/clinical syllabus. All VMT students must adhere to the color of scrubs (maroon) and lab coats (charcoal) while in

