Professional Dress Code for Occupational Therapy Students at UTMB

When working in healthcare, education, or community settings, professional attire is required. This means when you are in a practical exam or making a presentation, you should also dress in a professionally appropriate manner. Business attire, representative of your professional career, are expected and should be clean, neat and fit you appropriately. Appropriate dress for males would be a shirt, tie and slacks, or if a requirement of your facility, polo shirts and slacks. Appropriate dress for females would be knee-length (or longer) dresses or skirts, or dress slacks and blouses. Exposure of the abdomen or chest due to low cut blouses or pants, or tight-fitting clothing such as leggings is NOT appropriate.

Follow these specific requirements as well:

1. Always wear your identification tag so that patients/clients can see your name and department.
2. Scrubs or jeans should be worn only in designated areas, or as directed by your clinical instructor or supervisor.
3. Jewelry and perfume/cologne should be worn at a minimum or at all.
4. Earrings should be no larger than a dime and be limited to 2 per ear. No dangling earrings should be worn.
5. With the exception of ear piercing, there will be no visible body piercing, including but not limited to tongue or nose piercing, or eyebrow rings/bars.
6. Hair should be clean, groomed and worn in a manner that will not interfere with patient/client care or job responsibilities, and will present a professional image. Long hair should be tied back so as not to be grabbed during patient transfers or other situations. Also, hair should be one basic color and no multiple colors such as red, green, blue or purple strips. No feather adornments should be worn due to possible allergies.
7. Facial hair must be trimmed short and kept clean.
8. Hats are not allowed.
9. Women may wear make-up in moderation.
10. Fingernails should be kept short, clean, neatly manicured, and not extend more than ¼” beyond the fingertips. Artificial nails and nail jewelry are prohibited per Health Department Regulations in any patient care role. Artificial nails are defined as any application of any product to the nail to include, but not limited to, acrylic, overlay, tips or silk wraps (does not refer to nail polish). Chipped nail polish is not permitted.
11. There will be no visible tattoos; any visible tattoo must be covered with a bandage or clothing.
12. Shoes should be close toed and non-skid shoes of low or moderate heel are recommended.