



## Nursing Portfolio Clinical Uniform Guideline

### Purpose:

North Metropolitan TAFE has a professional dress standard for students undertaking professional experience placements and clinical skills laboratories to ensure compliance with:

1. Infection prevention and control standards
2. Patient safety practices
3. Cultural competence
4. Occupational health and safety requirements
5. Upholding the professional and public image of students in healthcare settings

Students represent North Metropolitan TAFE and are responsible for upholding a professional image for patients, colleagues, and the West Australian community.

### Scope:

This policy applies to the following students and staff in the Nursing portfolio who undertake clinical skills laboratories and professional experience placement (PEP) in an acute healthcare facility.

1. Diploma of Nursing
2. Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology
3. Cert III in Health Service Assistant (Acute) (AIN)
4. NM TAFE employed Clinical facilitators
5. NM TAFE employed Lecturers

This guideline identifies the minimum requirements, students are required to conform to any additional requirements from the PEP providers' uniform policy whilst undertaking clinical placement.

### Procedures for implementation and operation:

Lecturers are responsible for introducing the uniform guidelines at orientation and ensuring students' compliance with these guidelines during all clinical skills laboratories.

Lecturers may address issues following the student behaviour management policy & using the student code of conduct. Failure to conform with the uniform guidelines may result in a request to leave the simulation area.

Clinical facilitators are responsible for ensuring students' compliance with uniform requirements during PEP and will address issues with the placement liaison lecturer who will follow the student behaviour management policy in addition to the organisation's policies and procedures.



The placement liaison lecturer should be made aware of all students at risk on PEP. Failure to conform with the uniform guidelines and or policies of the organisation may result in a request to leave the clinical placement immediately.

If any student, lecturer or NM TAFE clinical facilitator feels unable to meet the dress requirements due to culture, religion, or other reasons, please contact the Head of Discipline for Nursing.

## Student Uniform Requirements

Students are required to wear full and correct uniform as detailed in Table 1. All students are to present with a clearly visible name badge & photo identification card (Student ID), unless otherwise directed by the facility or the Clinical Facilitator (CF).

## Uniform Maintenance

Students uniform must be clean & ironed, and students must always present professionally in their North Metropolitan TAFE uniform on (PEP) and in clinical simulation settings such as the clinical skills laboratory.

Infection control standards mean uniforms must be washed after each use.

Students should purchase a minimum of 2 sets of uniform for the purpose of clinical placements.

Students should cover their TAFE scrubs in public, including public transport. A long coat or cardigan is acceptable to cover your uniform when travelling to and from PEP.

## Mental Health Placements

Uniform may not be required in all Mental Health PEP settings. Students and Clinical Facilitators should check for facility specific uniform requirements as outlined by the facility on SONIA ahead of your PEP.

Appropriate attire is necessary, or students will be asked to leave the facility.

Suggestions of what may be worn:

- Blouses or shirts which are not revealing or skin-tight, these must be short sleeved and above the elbow.
- Smart black pants
- Enclosed shoes as outlined below.

**Not to be worn** Jeans, leggings, shorts, cargo pants,  $\frac{3}{4}$  pants, wide legged trousers, singlets, sandals, ballet flats or open topped shoes, low cut tops, no midriff showing, skirts above the knee.

## Cultural and Religious Uniform Variations

A black skirt is a suitable alternative to scrub pants, but it must not restrict movement, must finish below the knee, and cannot touch the ground.

Headwear-to be tight fitting, secured with clips and be plain black, must not cover any part of the face.



Sleeves below the elbow are not permitted in the clinical skills laboratory or clinical placement. This is consistent with World Health Organisation and Australian healthcare infection control standards and practice guidelines.

If any student carries on their body any cultural artefact or article of faith, please contact the Head of Discipline for Nursing prior to commencing the PEP.

### **Jewellery**

Jewellery is restricted to a plain wedding band and one set of stud earrings (one earring per ear).

For safety and hygiene reasons it is required that facial piercing and tongue posts be removed when in the clinical or simulation setting.

### **Mobile Phones / Personal Equipment**

Personal mobile phones should not be carried on person whilst providing direct client care. These may be used to access PEP tools or clinical applications / education away from the bedside.

### **Makeup**

Students are asked to consider infection control and professional standards of practice in relation to wearing makeup. If a lecturer or PEP provider deems your makeup to be inappropriate for the clinical setting you may be asked to remove it. False eyelashes are not permitted, and you will be asked to remove these.

### **Grooming**

Students are advised to wash regularly and wear antiperspirant to eliminate body odour.

Short clean fingernails with absence of nail polish is mandatory. Nail extensions are NOT permitted and must be removed prior to attending any PEP or clinical skills laboratory settings.

Hair must be always tidy and off the collar and face (no long ponytails); long hair must be tied back. Hair ornaments are not to be worn.

Facial hair – beard and or moustache must be kept neatly trimmed.



Table 1: NM TAFE Nursing portfolio prescribed clinical uniforms

Clothing /item	Colour
<b>Fleece Vest</b>	Optional item not to be worn during direct client care
<b>Scrub tops</b>  <b>No undergarments to be seen</b>	<b>Student Nurse:</b> Classic scrub top in Royal blue with embroidered NM TAFE logo, course name and indigenous design
	<b>Student AIN:</b> Classic scrub top in mid blue with embroidered NM TAFE logo, course name and indigenous design
	<b>Student Anaesthetic tech:</b> Classic scrub top in grey including embroidered NM TAFE logo, course name and indigenous design
	<b>NM TAFE Clinical Facilitator / Lecturer</b> Navy blue scrub top with embroidered TAFE logo may be purchased, alternatively any unbranded scrubs of choice may be worn.
<b>Scrub pants</b>  <b>Not to be worn:</b> Jeans, leggings, shorts, cargo pants, ¾ pants, wide legged trousers.	<b>Student Nurse:</b> Classic matching scrub pants in black
	<b>Student AIN:</b> Classic matching scrub pants in navy
	<b>Student Anaesthetic tech:</b> Classic matching scrub pants in grey
	<b>NM TAFE Clinical Facilitator / Lecturer</b> Classic matching scrub pants in black or any unbranded scrub colour may be worn.
<b>Hosiery / Socks</b>	Hosiery and socks should be discreet and compliment the professional clothing worn by the student, e.g. Navy blue, black or skin toned in colour.
<b>Shoes</b> <b>Not to be worn:</b> Ballet flats, canvas shoes, crocs	Black shoes must be fully enclosed the upper made of a non-permeable material and the sole should be non-slip.

**How to purchase uniforms:**

The prescribed North Metropolitan TAFE student uniforms are only available from the TOTALLY WORKWEAR stores and are not available online. Students are required to present in-store for fitting and payment.