MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

POLICY C-18

TITLE: PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE POLICY

POLICY: The following are minimal expectations for professional appearance for a College of Nursing student:

Student dress for areas requiring a uniform:
1. Navy blue scrub top with MSU arm patch on the left sleeve with top edge sewn two inches below the shoulder seam.
2. Navy blue scrub pants.
3. Name tag must include student’s full legal name and must be worn on the upper left chest. The name tag must be worn at all times when in the student role.
4. Lab coat with the name tag is required when in the clinical area to obtain patient assignments.
5. Shoes must be clean, low heeled, and closed toed. Shoe color must be of neutral tone (black, brown, navy, or white) and must follow agency policies. They may not include any distracting colors, patterns, or images. Socks must be worn at all times (and be neutral).
6. For infection control purposes, students that are direct patient caregivers or performing invasive procedures (wound care, IV line placement) must refrain from wearing artificial nails per CDC guidelines.

Student dress for areas not requiring a uniform:
The student uniform may not be required in certain courses such as psychiatric nursing, management, community health, etc. In these instances, students should wear casual professional attire. (No jeans).

RATIONALE: Professional appearance instills confidence in others, sends a clear message that the professional is credible and reflects self-confidence and good health.

PROCEDURE: Students will receive information on the Professional Appearance Policy during their sophomore year of nursing school. Instructors may have additional requirements for professional appearance based on the course and clinical requirements. Students must also adhere to the clinical agency policy on professional appearance when applicable. At the discretion of the instructor, students may be dismissed from clinical for non-adherence to the policy.
Reviewed/Approved by:
Level I: UAAC (December, 2014)
Level II: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs (December, 2014)