

Marshall University Speech and Hearing Center Clinic Dress Code

The fields of speech-language pathology and audiology call for a competent, professional image that will many times be initially conveyed at least in part by your appearance to client, family, supervisors, and/or other professionals. Keep in mind that this may be their initial (possibly only) impression of you and our center. We work with a variety of clients, variety of ages, and a variety of parents, therefore clothing/accessories/general appearance should convey an air of working in an outpatient setting in a professional field. (ex., what may be appropriate in a hospital environment may not be appropriate for an outpatient environment.)

Students providing services, observing sessions and those working in the waiting room at the Marshall University Speech and Hearing Center (MUSHC) have 2 options for dress:

1) MUSHC dress code-

- Pants: Khaki or Black (no shorts)
- Polo shirt: (short or long sleeve/green, black or white) Shirts may have a Marshall logo, Marshall University Speech and Hearing Center logo or can be a plain polo shirt

2) Business Casual –

- dress pants or dress capris (no shorts)
- appropriate length skirt/dress (at or below the knee)
- nice shirt (no cleavage)

No:

- “casual” sandals like flip-flops, Birkenstocks secondary to safety issues
- visible tattoos and/or body piercings

A clinician’s general appearance should also be taken into consideration.

- Clothing/accessories/general appearance should be neat, clean, wrinkle-free and tidy.



- All shoes should be clean and in good repair.
- Hair should be neat, clean, and styled off of your face and out of your eyes.
- Given the different sensitivities of people, wear light fragrance/cologne (if at all).
- This is a setting in which you may find yourself sitting in the floor with children or pushing a wheelchair. Be sure you can maneuver in those situations without baring skin or underwear. In addition, expect the unexpected: will you be safe in reacting to an emergency or if a client grabs your earring? Really think ahead.

Remember: 1) casual does not mean sloppy – sloppiness is not professional, 2) in many cases you, the student, will have a greater obligation to place more emphasis on looking “professional” because you may be seen as young and not-so-knowledgeable; this consistent, “professional casual” dress code will ensure that everyone is perceived as a professional clinician. Although everyone may not agree on what is not professional, we can agree on an idea of what is.

* When a student is assigned an off-campus placement and is scheduled in the clinic on the same day, the dress code accepted at the off-campus placement will be considered acceptable if it is judged to be at the same professional level, (ex., scrubs or other professional attire, not jeans).