POLICY: Clinical experiences occur in many different clinical agencies. Student access to these clinical facilities is regulated by contracts between the University and the agency, covering policies such as background checks, immunizations, drug testing, malpractice and health insurance requirements. Students who do not meet an agency’s requirements will be denied access to that facility. It should be noted that the student is not considered an employee of the agency where the clinical experience takes place, and has no claim for employee benefits such as sick leave, social security, retirement benefits, worker’s compensation, or unemployment benefits. Students may suggest possible sites for clinical placement, but the actual contracting for the clinical experience must be initiated by a nursing faculty member.

Faculty and students within the School of Nursing must comply with the policies of the various clinical agencies where clinical practice is scheduled. Students should be aware that in addition to the clinical dress code addressed below, additional restrictions and infection control policies may be required in specific departments of the hospitals.

RATIONALE: The School must meet the requirements of clinical agencies while standardizing a professional appearance for its students and faculty.

PROCEDURE:

I. Clinical Dress Code:
   A. Uniforms and Shoes

1. Uniforms and lab coats (lab coats are optional) must be ordered from the company designated by the School of Nursing. Each student will order the official red uniform (top and trousers) and a white lab coat. Both the uniform and the lab coat require a patch with the UNLV insignia on the left sleeve. Clean, all black, nursing shoes are required. As specified in OSHA standards, shoes must have impermeable enclosed toes. Socks or pantyhose must be worn.

2. When providing direct patient care in acute care settings, the official UNLV red uniform and School approved name tag must be worn. The name tag should be in clear sight above the waist with the student’s first name/last initial and picture clearly visible. For infection control purposes students are not allowed to wear sweaters or sweatshirts when providing care. During cold weather it is appropriate to wear long-sleeved white, red, grey, or black turtleneck or crew neck T-shirts without logos or advertisements under the red uniform top.

3. When picking up a patient care assignment or retrieving patient data in the acute care setting, the red uniform and name tag are required.
Unprofessional appearance or behavior will be reported to the clinical faculty member by agency staff.

4. The official uniform should only be utilized for student experiences, including travel between one’s place of residence, on-campus for nursing classes, and in the clinical area.

B. Name Tag and Insignia
   1. The UNLV student name tag and insignia are required in the clinical area. Student identification name tags must include the student’s first name and last initial. Students are responsible for sewing the insignia on the left sleeve of the uniform and optional lab coat.

C. General Grooming
   1. Students are expected to be free of body odor. This includes use of deodorant, daily showering/bathing, and oral care. The use of perfumes and/or fragrances is not allowed in the acute care setting due to the possible patient/client sensitivity or allergy to these substances. Students should refrain from smoking while in uniform, as the smoke clings to clothes and is an irritant to patients. Makeup should be subdued.

D. Hair
   1. Hair should be clean and neatly groomed. Long hair must be worn up or secured back from the face, back and shoulders so as not to obstruct visual acuity and/or affect client safety. Hair should be in natural colors. Male students are to be clean shaven or have a neatly trimmed beard.

E. Fingernails
   1. Due to the risk for spread of infection, students are not permitted to use artificial nails. Artificial nails include, but are not limited to: wraps, acrylics, tips, tapes, nail piercings, and any appliqués other than those made of nail polish. Nails must be trimmed so they are no longer than 1/8 inch past the tip of the finger to prevent puncture of gloves and injuring patients or other care providers. Nail polish is not permitted in the clinical setting. Attention must be given to cleaning around the base of the nails and cuticles when washing hands.

F. Jewelry
   1. In the clinical area, and in SON uniform, no jewelry is permitted except for a wedding band and one pair of small pierced earrings without dangles in lobes only. Visible body jewelry must be removed in the clinical area (e.g. tongue, eyebrow, or other body piercing). All visible tattoos must be covered. A waterproof wristwatch with a sweep hand or a digital seconds display is required.

G. Students in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing and Community Health Nursing Practicum courses
   1. Each student must obtain a black polo shirt from the School of Nursing preceding the first community clinical experience. The length of the shirts must allow the shirt to be tucked in. The midriff and/or cleavage must not show, including when the student extends arms fully up or when the student bends over. Each student will be responsible for purchasing their own pair of black slacks. These must be business professional black
slacks. No denim, no leggings, no exercise/workout pants, no sweatpants, and no cargo pants. A maximum of two pockets in the front and two pockets in the back is allowed for the slacks. The clothing should be thick and loose enough that undergarment lines are not visible. Shoes should be closed-toed and should be appropriate to the attire. No heels are allowed. Black or neutral colored athletic shoes are appropriate. The school approved name tag must be worn. The name tag should be in clear sight above the waist with the student’s first name/last initial and picture clearly visible.

II. Patient Confidentiality
   A. An important part of nursing ethics is maintaining the client's confidentiality. Therefore, written work submitted to the instructor must never contain the client's full name. Client problems must not be discussed with family or friends. If the School ascertains that a client's confidentiality has been violated, the student violating the confidence will be subject to disciplinary action. Use of cameras, video phones, or any form of image recorder in the clinical area is strictly prohibited without specific arrangements and written permission from the school and clinical agency.

III. Clinical Skills Checklist
   A. Each clinical course will have a complete skills list. Certain skills may be identified as "critical skills." Accomplishment of critical skills is essential to pass the course. At the end of each semester the skills completed by the student should be noted and signed off by the designated faculty member. These skills lists are often utilized for references for employment in the Nurse Apprentice Program, or similar work positions.

IV. Clinical Evaluations
   A. All students are offered the opportunity of a formal mid-term evaluation. Students must have a formal final evaluation in clinical, and at that time the students are to be told their final grade. The final evaluation must completed in E*Value prior to the faculty member leaving campus for the semester.

V. Transportation to Clinical Sites
   A. Students must provide their own transportation to the various agencies for clinical experience.

Approved by Student Affairs Council: 3/11/08, 4/11/11, 10/27/11, 2/11/13, 10/13/14, 2/13/17, 04/09/18
Approved by Faculty Organization: 3/25/08, 4/25/11, 10/31/11, 3/18/13, 10/27/14, 2/27/17, 06/25/18
Approved by Dean: 3/25/08, 4/25/11, 10/31/11, 3/18/13, 11/17/14, 2/27/17, 06/25/18