As a student you represent, not only Clarkson College, but also the professional image of nursing. To uphold this image in the clinical setting, MSN students are required to be well groomed and dressed to reflect a professional image. Student appearance must also comply with clinical agency dress codes. Appropriateness is at the discretion of the preceptor and site. Clinical site employees reserve the right to dismiss a student from a clinical site based on unprofessional or inappropriate dress/behavior. Student identification must be visible at all times in chest area.

### PERSONAL APPEARANCE EXPECTATIONS

The following are minimal expectations of the personal appearance of a Clarkson College MSN student:

1. **Hair**: Students must have human colored hair. Extreme looks such as multiple colors; extremes in bleaching, dyeing or tinting; or shaved eyebrows are not appropriate. Hair must be clean and pulled back from the face so as not to fall forward while giving patient care. Beards or moustaches for men will be neatly trimmed.
2. **Make-up**: If worn, is to be conservative and not detract from the attire, uniform or work environment and must reflect a professional image.
3. **Nails**: Need to be smooth, of a moderate length and clean. Artificial nails, nail polish/products are not to be worn by anyone with responsibility for hand-on patient care, as they are an infection control risk.
4. **Jewelry**: Decorative jewelry is to be conservative and not detract from the attire or work environment and must not pose a safety/infection risk. Jewelry should be minimal. Students are allowed:
   - No more than one ring per hand (unless otherwise stated by the clinical agency). Plain-type wedding bands are preferred.
   - No piercings on the body are permitted with the exception of one post/stud type earring on the lower ear lobe.
   - Body piercings (other than the one piercing allowed in the lower ear lobe) will be removed for all clinical settings and experiences. Covering up body piercings with Band-Aids or other types of concealing methods (i.e.: clear spacers, retainers, or make-up) are not permitted. This includes surgically implanted jewelry.
   - One small necklace that fits snug to neck or is able to be tucked into a shirt is permitted. Dangling necklaces are a safety issue.
5. **Aftershave, cologne and perfume**: Will be applied sparingly, as patient’s sensitivity to scents/odors must be considered at all times.
6. **Tattoos**: *Visible tattoos are not allowed*. If a student has tattoo(s), clothing must completely cover the tattoo(s) or apply a concealing item if in an area that clothing does not cover.
7. **Personal cleanliness**: Daily attention to one’s personal hygiene is an extremely important component of each student’s overall image. Students will maintain a high level of personal hygiene. Students’ breath and clothing/lab coats must not smell of smoke.

**Note**: If a student chooses to wear piercings that are not visible (i.e.: under the required clinical attire), Clarkson College will not be liable for injuries that may occur.

### CLINICAL ATTIRE

- Clothing appropriate to the clinical site.
- A white lab coat with current student ID badge worn in the chest area.