

DRESS CODE

OBJECTIVE

The intent of our dress code is to provide a professional and appropriate learning environment for all students, as well as to encourage students to think biblically in terms of how they choose to present themselves in the various contexts of life.

Our guidelines embody the following values for both men and women:

- Romans 12: 1: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship."
- We believe that we should represent and present ourselves in a way that honours the Lord regardless of who or where we are—as "living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God" and as an act of "true and proper worship."
- Christian believers around the world, both past and present, will be influenced in their understandings and opinions about what honours the Lord based on a variety of background factors, including, but not limited to, their upbringing, culture, theology, biblical interpretation, experience, and personality.
- We embrace the reality that our staff members, our students, and their parents, as well as our extended constituency, will have different personal opinions and levels of conscience about aspects of dress. We purpose our dress code to be honorable to the Lord in spirit, but we are not attempting to create a code that is a definitive representation about what is and what isn't pleasing to God; rather, we have designed our dress code to guide us as we interact in this aspect of our lives together as staff and students in our specific context as a Christian academic and professional environment. Although we have a variety of personal opinions, we have covenanted together to live within the code that we have established for our context.

Therefore, we have selected the following considerations to govern our dress code:

- A. Modesty for both men and women: We invite our students to think biblically in terms of how they choose to represent themselves in the various contexts of life as they grow towards adulthood.
- B. Appropriateness for the context: We invite our students to choose attire appropriate to the purpose, occasion, and location of BCA activities as we focus on our lives together as a community of believers, a community of learners, and a community of citizens.

GUIDELINES

Headwear:

- *All contexts (academic, extracurricular, and formal):*
 - No inappropriate logos, slogans, or designs
- *Chapel, prayer, and worship contexts:*
 - Neither hats nor headwear are permitted in Chapel spaces or during prayer.
 - Hoodies should not be up during Chapels or during prayer to ensure that headphones are not being used inappropriately.
- *Academic:*
 - Hats and headwear are permitted in classrooms and other common spaces.
 - Hoodies should not be up during class sessions to ensure that headphones are not being used inappropriately.

Shirts and Tops:

- *All contexts (academic, extracurricular, and formal):*
 - No inappropriate logos, slogans, or designs
 - No undergarments showing
 - No cleavage
 - No midriffs
- *Academic:*
 - No spaghetti straps or strapless tops
 - No exposed lower backlines (tops with large areas cut out of the lower back)
 - No “muscle shirts” in the academic buildings/chapel areas; these are, however, permitted for PE, Personal Fitness, and Wellness classes

Skirts and Dresses:

- *Academic, extracurricular, and formal:*
 - Dresses, skirts, and dresses/skirts with slits: mid-thigh or longer
 - No exposed lower backlines (dresses with large areas cut out of the lower back)
 - No inappropriate logos, slogans, or designs
 - No undergarments showing
 - No cleavage
 - No midriffs
- *Formal:*
 - Straps: Neither the presence of nor the absence of straps on the gown should compromise its modesty; a gown which has spaghetti straps or which is strapless is permitted at formal extra-curricular functions as long as the gown appropriately covers the body features most clearly associated with preserving modesty as indicated above. Students are encouraged to select wraps, shrugs, or sweaters to complete their ensembles.

Pants:

- No undergarments showing
- Ripped clothing items: These are permitted, though no rips should be located in areas that would expose undergarments or related regions.

Shorts:

- *All contexts (academic, extracurricular, and formal):*
 - Must cover the buttocks completely; no “short shorts”
 - Ripped clothing items: These are permitted, though no rips should be located in areas that would expose undergarments or related regions.

Swimwear:

- No bikinis or speedos

Academic Dress for the BCA Commencement Ceremony:

Please preserve the guidelines as listed above. Please also note the following additional expectations for this formal academic event:

- **Graduation Regalia:**
 - BCA graduates will be honoured for their academic achievement by being provided with caps and gowns to wear during the official graduation ceremony.
- **Dress Shoes:**
 - Please wear dress shoes, sandals, or boots of a more formal nature (no sneakers, flip flops, or casual boots, etc.).
- **Dress Shirts and Ties:**
 - Please wear a long-sleeved shirt with a tie.
- **Dress Pants:**
 - Please wear dress pants (no jeans).
- **Dresses, Skirts, and Blouses:**
 - Please wear dress attire which aligns with the dress code guidelines for academic events.

RESPONSE TO DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

Academic Dress:

- Students whose attire compromises the dress code will be requested to return to their dorm room or home in order to address the issue.
 - Students who demonstrate a pattern of inappropriate choices in this area will be referred to BCA administration to complete a student referral and/or contract.

Academic Dress for the BCA Graduation Weekend Events (Processional Program, Celebration Service, and Commencement Ceremony):

- Students whose attire compromises the dress code will be required to promptly correct the issue before being allowed to enter the graduation events; at the supervising teacher's discretion, students may be required to borrow an appropriate item of clothing, to wear an item supplied by the BCA staff, or to return home to address the concern.

Formal Dress Standards:

- Students whose attire compromises the dress code will be required to promptly correct the issue before being allowed to enter the BCA event; at the supervising teacher's discretion, students may be required to borrow an appropriate item of clothing, to wear an item supplied by the BCA staff, or to return home to address the concern.