

# BCA DRESS CODE

**Mandate: What is our objective as a body of learning?**

At BCA, we value each student as an individual and as part of a community. We seek to recognize and to develop all aspects of their personhood with excellence, according to God's highest purpose for their heart, soul, strength, and mind.

Our dress code intends 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:

- 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:

- I. Modesty for men and women: Clothes should not unduly attract attention to a person's body and away from focusing on our lives together as a community of believers, a community of learners, and a community of citizens.
- II. Appropriateness: One's choice of clothes should appropriately reflect the purpose, occasion, and location of BCA activities.

**For men and women:**

- No inappropriate logos, slogans, or designs
- No hats or headwear in classroom or chapel spaces; hats/headwear permitted in other spaces (unless otherwise directed)
- No undergarments showing

**For men:**

- No sleeveless shirts (muscle shirts) in the academic buildings/chapel areas

**For women:**

- **Academic, co-curricular, and formal:** Keep it classy: No cleavage, midriffs, or backlines (exposed lower back areas).
- **Academic, co-curricular, and formal:** Shorts, dresses, skirts (mid-thigh or longer).
- **Academic:** No spaghetti straps, strapless shoulders, or strapless tops. No tops with large areas cut out of the backs.
- **Co-curricular events:** Dress code applies. No bikinis.
- **Formal events:** Dress code applies with the exception of straps. Neither the presence of nor the absence of straps on the gown compromises its modesty; a gown which has spaghetti straps or which is strapless is permitted at formal evening functions as long as the gown appropriately covers the body features most clearly associated with preserving modesty as indicated above. Ladies are encouraged to select wraps, shrugs, or sweaters to complete their ensembles.

**Academic Dress for the BCA Graduation Ceremony**

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

- **For men and women:** BCA graduates will be honoured for their academic achievement by being provided with caps and gowns to wear during the official graduation ceremony.
- **For men:** Gentlemen will wear a long-sleeved shirt with a tie, trousers (no jeans), and dress shoes or boots (no sneakers, flip flops, or hiking boots, etc.).
- **For women:** Ladies will wear dress attire (Sunday morning) which aligns with the dress code guidelines for academic events; shoes, sandals, or boots must be of a more formal nature (no sneakers, flip flops, or casual boots, etc.).

**Response to Dress Code Violations**

- **Academic Dress:** Students whose attire compromises the dress code will be requested to visit the office to put on additional/replacement clothing such as a tee-shirt or jogging pants to cover up; students may be permitted to return home to change during sufficiently lengthy

breaks in their schedule. Students who demonstrate a pattern of inappropriate choices in this area will be referred to BCA administration to complete a student referral or contract.

- **Academic Dress for the BCA Graduation Ceremony and Formal Dress Standards:** 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.