

MBEYA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



**DRESS CODE GUIDELINES FOR
MUST STUDENTS**

2019

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES FOR MUST STUDENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the past decade, the higher education institutions dress code has become an increasingly common policy nationwide. As opposed to the requirements of students to wear specific clothing in the form of uniforms, dress code provide guidelines through which students are allowed to wear any clothing that meets the University and community requirements. When students grow and develop their identities, they often use clothes as a way to express who they are and what they believe. For this, University clothing and personal appearance should be neat, becoming, and appropriate.

The Mbeya University of Science and Technology understands and fully supports students' right to self-expression. The University also has an obligation to create a living, teaching and learning environment where all members of the community are comfortable and not offended by inappropriate dress.

The University Management, classroom instructors/lecturers and other staff have the responsibility to oversee and address guidelines violators and/or deny services to students dressed in any of the prohibited attire.

1.1 Rationale for Developing Students' Dress Code Guidelines

Students have been found wearing of clothing that do not conform to the values of the MUST community. Also students lack clear interpretation of what constitutes acceptable dresses.

Observance of Dress Codes is important because it helps to preserve moral standards, ensure discipline and a sense of responsibility among students, prepare students for their careers in real world as many professions need smart personnel and contribute to a safe and supportive teaching and learning environment.

Studying at a University is not only passing examinations but also to maintain the good image of oneself and the respective University through descent dresses.

The Dress Code is designed to provide appropriate guidelines to all students to dress in a manner that is respectful of themselves and in the MUST community.

1.2 Objectives of the Dress Code Guidelines

Main Objective

The main objective of the Dress Code Guidelines is to provide guidance to students on appropriate dressing.

Specific objectives

- i. Ensure smartness and appropriateness of dressing
- ii. Provide cultural and academic development arena
- iii. Provides productive and positive atmosphere for teaching and learning environment.

2. REQUIREMENTS TO STUDENTS

The following is required to be observed by all students at MUST:

- i. Wearing of Identity Cards with the branded strings all the time in the University campus for identification.
- ii. Distinction of appropriate dress subject to situations such as for classes, workshops, church, business and formal affairs, relaxation and play/sports activities.
- iii. Learn to use socially acceptable dress to specific occasions and activities.
- iv. Inappropriate attire will be considered absolute or offensive garments without proper undergarments to unclear their transparency; form-fitting clothing without proper support undergarments; micro-mini dresses/skirts that do not cover enough of the thighs while standing/sitting; halter tops; midriff blouses; t-shirts bearing disrespectful language/indecent messages, and cut-out or torn jeans that reveals undergarments and/or private parts;
- v. Neither males nor females shall show any visual display of underwear.
- vi. Neither males nor females shall wear baseball caps, stocking caps, skullcaps, sun-visors, and bandannas in public buildings except in the privacy of the student's hostels or for religious or cultural activities;
- vii. Appropriate attention must be given to personal cleanliness and good grooming including hair; to present a clean, neat, and orderly appearance representative of the MUST community and the University's values and mission;
- viii. Dress must be appropriate for the occasion or setting. During special occasions (convocations, career/graduate and professional University fairs, employment opportunities, etc.) business or formal wear (shirt and tie, business suit, blazer and dress skirt/slacks, or dress/tuxedo) should be worn; and
- ix. Pajamas of all kinds, hair rollers, and/or bedroom slippers shall be worn only in the residence halls/blocks and not be worn in public areas.

3. STUDENT DRESSING GUIDELINES

3.1 Students will dress in accordance with the following guidelines:

- i. Clothing and general appearance shall not cause a disturbance or interference with the instructional programme. Clothing and general appearance must not constitute a health or safety hazard;

- ii. All clothing must be of appropriate length and fit. To be acceptable, skirts for female students must be hemmed and must extend under the knees. Excessively loose or excessively tight fitting clothing is not permitted. Form-fitting clothing must be covered with garments of appropriate length;
- iii. Strapless tops, tank tops, tops with spaghetti straps, tops with excessively low necklines, and halters are not allowed. Midriffs shall not be exposed. Male students shall not wear sleeveless/singlet garments in public areas.
- iv. Female students shall not wear sleeveless garments which do not completely cover undergarments. Shoes and sandals are to be worn properly;
- v. Hats, caps, sweatbands, and other types of head coverings shall not be worn in the public areas unless approved for religious or medical reasons;
- vi. Hair should be neat and clean and should not obstruct vision. Rollers, comb, and picks shall not be worn in the hair;
- vii. Males are not allowed to plate their hair and wear earrings;
- viii. Tattoos/tattooing makeup are not allowed;
- ix. Sandals (kandambili, yeboyebo's, etc) are forbidden;
- x. No cut-off shirts or unbuttoned shirts will be allowed;
- xi. A student shall not wear clothing with obscene, crude, suggestive or vulgar phrases, or clothing that is suggestive or indecent;
- xii. Clothing advertising or supporting the use of alcohol, tobacco products, illicit drugs, promiscuity, or violence is not allowed;
- xiii. Sagging pants worn below the waist are not allowed. Pajama pants are not allowed. Pants with writing across the seat are not allowed. Pants that drag the floor are not allowed;
- xiv. Clothing that exposes underclothing/underpants shall not be worn. Clothing considered and designed as underclothing such as skin tight shall not be worn as outside garments;
- xv. Gang related clothing is not allowed. Gang symbols (such as pacifiers, bandannas, or any other item or hairstyle identified with a gang) or symbols identified with a University fraternity or sorority are not allowed;
- xvi. Jewels that are health or safety hazard or that depict weapons of violence, drugs, or alcohol should not be worn. Jewels in pierced body parts are not allowed except in ears. Jewels with spikes are not allowed;
- xvii. All clothes shall be in a state of good repair. Torn, ripped, or clothing with holes is not allowed. Pants, running shorts and gym shorts shall be worn only in appropriate physical education classes and are not appropriate in the classroom setting;

- xviii. Students shall not dress in any manner reasonably deemed to be inappropriate and disruptive to the teaching and learning process as determined by the University management; and

3.2 Dress Code Violations

A student who violates the dress code will have an opportunity of correcting the mistake. A student who violates the dress code frequently will be eligible for disciplinary measures as stipulated in the Student By-Laws. A student who has a question about the appropriateness of dressing should discuss the specific issue with the appropriate staff member before wearing the item.

4. REINFORCEMENT OF THE GUIDELINES

- i. The University administration will thoroughly communicate with students on the appropriate dressing and enforce the guidelines in a fair, timely, and consistent manner.
- ii. Repeatedly offenders will be referred to the disciplinary authority for disciplinary action.
- iii. Students should be given an opportunity to come into compliance with the dress code after being made aware on the proper dressing guidelines.
- iv. Each case should be documented.

5. AMENDMENT OF THE GUIDELINES

MUST management reserves the right to adjust these guidelines at any time, especially in situations where dress, grooming, or visible bodily markings, become disrupting to the norms and academic environment. Such changes will occur more on an individual basis, but overall adjustments may be made.

References

Chuo Kikuu Kishiriki cha Elimu Dar es Salaam (2018): Taarifa ya Hali ya Uvaaji na Hatua Zilizochukuliwa na Chuo. Chuo Kikuu Kishiriki c ha Elimu Dar es Salaam.

DUCE (2015): Information Guide to Prospective Students; Dar es Salaam University College of Education.

<http://www.naijastories.com/2013/03/should-a-dress-code-be-implented-on-nigerian-campuses> retrieved on 15th July, 2019.

Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania (2007): Waraka wa Utumishi wa Umma Na. 3 wa mwaka 2007 Kuhusu Mavazi kwa Watumishi wa Umma; Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania

MUST (2014): Students By-Laws; Mbeya University of Science and Technology.

St. John's University of Tanzania (2013): Student Handbook (2012/2013); Central Tanganyika Press.

STUDENT DRESS CODE ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the dressing code guidelines for MUST students and understand that it is my responsibility to read regularly and comply with the Dress Code Guidelines.

Furthermore, I acknowledge that I shall comply with the University Students By-Laws.

Therefore, I declare and acknowledge that, as a student of Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST), I shall abide to the MUST students' Dress Code Guidelines.

Student's Full Name:

Student's Mobile Phone:

Student's Signature: Date

Parent's/Guardian's Name:

Parent's/Guardian's Mobile Phone Number:

Parent's/Guardian's signature.....Date.....

A SAMPLE OF DRESSES THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE UNIVERSITY



APPROVAL

According to the **19th Council Meeting** of Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) held on **26th August, 2019**, item **4.2**; this **DRESS CODE GUIDELINES** for MUST students have been read and approved.

Hon. Zakia Hamdani Meghji
MUST COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

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Date

Mr. Geofray Ngulla
Ag. COUNCIL SECRETARY