



Policy Title:

Student Identification in the Clinical Setting

Policy Identifier:

A3.04

Prepared by: PA Program Faculty	Creation Date: 01/01/2026
Reviewed by: PA Program Executive Committee	Review Date: 01/01/2026
Approved by: PA Program Executive Committee	Effective Date: 01/01/2026
Category: Academic and Clinical Policies	

ARC-PA Standards

A3.04

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia Physician Assistant (PA) students.

Policy Statement

All USC School of Medicine Columbia PA students must be clearly identified as Physician Assistant Students at all times in any clinical or patient care setting. Proper identification ensures transparency in the delivery of patient care and distinguishes PA students from other learners and practitioners.

Reason for Policy

To ensure compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.04 by establishing clear expectations for the identification of PA students in all clinical settings. This policy is designed to protect patient safety, uphold professional standards, and clearly distinguish PA students from other health professions students and licensed healthcare providers.

Definitions

Identification Badge- The official USC SOMC PA Program badge displaying the student’s name and title “Physician Assistant Student” or “PA Student.”

White Coat- The designated program white coat embroidered with the title “Physician Assistant Student.”

Policy Guidelines

1. **Identification Requirements**

- PA students must wear the official USC SOMC PA Program identification badge at all times while participating in clinical, laboratory, or patient care activities.



- The badge must clearly display the student’s name and the title “Physician Assistant Student.”
- When applicable, students must also wear the designated program white coat bearing the embroidered title “Physician Assistant Student.”

2. Professional Presentation

- Identification badges must be worn above the waist and visible to patients, staff, and faculty at all times.
- Students are expected to introduce themselves to patients and healthcare team members as “Physician Assistant Students” when engaging in any clinical interaction.
- Students must comply with all site-specific identification and dress code policies in addition to this program policy.

3. Enforcement and Accountability

- Failure to properly identify oneself as a Physician Assistant Student may result in a professionalism concern and potential disciplinary action consistent with the program’s professionalism and conduct policies.
- Repeated violations may result in removal from the clinical site and referral to the Student Progress Committee.

Contacts

Program Director
USC School of Medicine Columbia
Physician Assistant Program

History

Date of Change	Change
01/01/2026	Policy drafted into new template