

U-Prep Dress Code Philosophy and Policy

At U-Prep the partnership between parents, students, and school is the foundation of our culture and environment. The dress code is an integral part of what makes our school unique and we ask families to support these rules. There are a number of reasons that we instituted this code. First of all we feel it is important to teach young adults how to present themselves in a business-like manner. Learning that there are situations that call for more formal attire as well as times when casual dress is not appropriate is a life skill that will serve students beyond their schooling. There are many dress up and school spirit days that provide opportunities to dress differently. We believe that our dress code contributes to the academic environment, allows students to focus on their work, and sets U-Prep apart from other schools. U-Prep is a school of choice and supporting the policies that inform our culture is an important consideration in the decision to enroll your student.

DRESS CODE (2018-19 Student/Parent Handbook, pages 31-32)

School Dress Codes –

There are high standards for dress and appearance at University Preparatory School. Listed below are basic guidelines to help students dress appropriately for their school setting. U-Prep's dress code supports the academic environment by preventing disruption to student learning; it also insures student safety. All dress code policies shall be applied at the principal's discretion as the need for it arises. All schools' dress codes prohibit any apparel, jewelry, accessories, etc., which by its color, arrangement, trademark or any other attribute, denotes membership in gangs or organizations which advocate drug use, violence or disruptive behavior.

Hats: Hats or head coverings shall not be worn on campus during the time school is in session. Hats may be worn at after-school activities unless the administration has determined that hats or other attire would contribute to an unsafe environment. Permission to wear hats can be granted by an employee's supervisor or student's instructor, if hats should be worn for reasons of health and safety or for religious observance. The administration has the authority to permit the wearing of hats on designated occasions, such as dress-up days, and special performances such as musicals, plays, or as part of a uniform or for verified health reasons. When students bring headgear to school it should be kept in backpacks or lockers.

The administration has the authority to designate days which require more formal clothing such as collared shirts, no denim.

- ◆ Gang Related Dress: Paraphernalia or clothing worn by students that is determined by administration to be gang-related is prohibited while school is in session, to and from school, and at school-sponsored functions.
- ◆ Sagging: Sagging (pants worn below the waist) is prohibited.
- ◆ Sweat pants, pajama pants, slippers (no soles and/or no backs), and spandex clothing are prohibited.
- ◆ All clothing will be clean, neat and free from tears and holes. Cut-off or frayed jeans are not allowed; patched jeans may not have frayed edges. Shorts and pants must be hemmed and free of holes.
- ◆ No costumes shall be worn except on special dress-up days arranged by the student government and approved by the administration.
- ◆ Shorts shall be finger-tip length with at least a 3 inch inseam and not designed for swimming, jogging, sunbathing, exercise or other recreational activities.
- ◆ Skirts must be fingertip length—wearing short-shorts underneath a short skirt does not make it acceptable school attire.
- ◆ No tops that have shoulder (spaghetti) straps or straps less than 2 inches in width, low necklines, or are see-through are permitted. Tops must cover the mid-section and sides of the body as well as undergarments. Shirts shall not have profane or suggestive slogans, gender put-downs, advertising of illegal substances, or references to alcoholic or illegal products.
- ◆ Undergarments shall not be worn as outer garments and no undergarments shall be visible.
- ◆ Wearing all black clothing is prohibited; skulls or other death symbols on clothing, backpacks or book covers are not allowed. Jewelry with spikes, studs, safety pins, pocket or other chains, and wrist bands and fingerless gloves are prohibited. Students may not dress in full camouflage/hunting attire.
- ◆ Students may not write on themselves, either on their skin or clothing.
- ◆ Shoes shall be worn at all times and shall not interfere with the student's ability to walk.
- ◆ Students shall not have visible tattoos or any-piercings with the exception of pierced ears. Per athletic rules, students may not compete while wearing jewelry of any kind. Students with piercings must remove piercing jewelry or retainers while at school. Not removing prohibited jewelry is defiance and may result in suspension from school.
- ◆ Students shall not have spiked hair that is longer than 2 inches or hair that is dyed or partially dyed purple, pink, green, blue, etc. with the exception of designated spirit days. Students may not wear their hair in a "Mohawk" or similar style except on designated spirit days. Students may not shave symbols into their hair.
- ◆ Unless otherwise indicated by administration, the dress code applies to all dances, games and other school activities. Hats may be worn at outside games and events.