

Sacred Heart School Seminary and School of Theology

Dress Code Policy

"The 'seminary'...more than a place, a material space, should be a spiritual place, a way of life, an atmosphere that fosters and ensures a process of formation, so that the person who is called to the priesthood by God may become, with the sacrament of orders, a living image of Jesus Christ, head and shepherd of the Church." (John Paul II, Pastores Dabo Vobis, 42)

It is imperative that every dimension of the seminary environment contribute to the formative atmosphere called for by our late Holy Father. Seminaries across the country recognize that the matter of appropriate dress is of considerable importance. The manner in which the seminary community "clothes" itself and presents itself to the world is seen as a sign of the interior commitment and renewal that must occur during the seminary formational experience. Consequently, Sacred Heart has the following dress code.

Definitions:

- **Formal Dress:** Modest style necktie, dress pants, dress shirt, dress shoes, and suit coat or matching sport coat. Deacons and those admitted to Candidacy will wear black clerical suit, clerical shirt with collar, black belt, and black dress shoes. Religious candidates with distinctive habit may wear it in lieu of above formal dress.
- **Semi-Formal Dress:** Collared dress shirt, dress pants and dress shoes. Dark colors are preferred for pants and shoes. Nice fleece-type outerwear may be worn during colder weather, but hooded sweatshirts are not appropriate. Deacons and those admitted to Candidacy will wear clerical garb as above, except for suit coat. Religious candidates with distinctive habit may wear it in lieu of above semi-formal dress.
- **Casual Dress:** Neat, clean pants, collared shirt (i.e. no t-shirt), casual shoes, tennis shoes or sandals (no "flip flops"). Shirts must be tucked in. Polo shirts (i.e. with squared off tails) are the exception. Athletic clothing, pajamas or shorts are not appropriate for chapel, dining room or elsewhere on the second (main) floor.

Expectations

- **Seminarians:** Seminarians will wear **formal** dress at all "special events", including at least the following: Sunday Mass, Wednesday Community Liturgy, Ministries, Ordinations, Dehon Lectures, Graduation and Banquets. Other events may be so designated. Seminarians will wear **semi-formal** dress at Morning Prayer, Mass, classes, and formation sessions. Seminarians may wear **casual** dress throughout Saturdays, on Sundays after Mass, and for daily seminary life when formal or semi-formal dress is not required. Casual dress is also permitted for Days of Recollection unless otherwise specified. Seminarians will not wear any form of bodily ornamentation, such as earrings and the like, nor visible tattoos.
- **Liturgical Ministers:** Deacons and those admitted to Candidacy will wear clerical garb under their alb. Readers will wear formal dress. Acolytes will wear semi-formal dress under liturgical garb. Eucharistic Ministers will wear formal dress. Gift bearers will wear semi-formal dress for daily Mass and formal dress for all special liturgies (e.g. opening Mass of school year, Wednesday Community Eucharist, Ministries, Ordinations and Days of Recollection).
- **ECSP Students:** Dress will be appropriate to the occasion. Culturally appropriate casual dress is acceptable for class days.
- **MA Students:** Dress will be professional and appropriate to the occasion.
- **Faculty, Administration, & Guests (including contract workers, volunteers, etc):** Dress will be professional and appropriate to the occasion. Priests will dress in clerical garb. Religious priests with distinctive habit may wear it in lieu of clerical garb.

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YOUR SEMINARY

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An Apostolate of the Priests of the Sacred Heart