

MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE



2021-2022 APPEARANCE & GROOMING STANDARDS

Appearance and Grooming Standards

1) **Hair and fingernail standards and grooming policies.**

- a) **General.** The requirement for hair grooming standards is necessary to maintain uniformity within a military population. Many hairstyles are acceptable, as long as they are neat and conservative. It is the responsibility of leaders at all levels to exercise good judgment when enforcing MMI policy. All Cadets will comply with hair, fingernail, and grooming policies while in any MMI uniform, or in civilian clothes on campus or participating in an MMI sanctioned event/trip.
- b) **Appropriateness.** Leaders will judge the appropriateness of a particular hairstyle by the guidance in this chapter and by the ability to wear all types of headgear (such as beret, patrol cap, or service cap/hat) properly. Hairstyles (including bulk and length of hair) that do not allow Cadets to wear any headgear properly are prohibited. Headgear will fit snugly and comfortably, without bulging or distortion from the intended shape of the headgear and without excessive gaps. Hairstyles that pose a health or safety hazard are not authorized.
- c) **Unauthorized Styles.** Extreme, eccentric, or faddish haircuts or hairstyles are not authorized. If Cadets use dyes, tints, or bleaches, they must choose a natural hair color. Colors that detract from a professional military appearance are prohibited. Therefore, Cadets must avoid using colors that result in an extreme appearance. Applied hair colors that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright (fire-engine) red, and fluorescent or neon colors. It is the responsibility of TACs and cadet leaders to use good judgment in determining if applied colors are acceptable based upon the overall effect on a Cadet's appearance.
- d) **Parts.** Cadets who have a texture of hair that does not part naturally may cut a part into the hair or style the hair with one part. The part will be one straight line, not slanted or curved, and will fall in the area where the Cadet would normally part the hair. Cadets will not shape or cut designs into their hair or scalp.

2) **Male haircuts.** The hair on top of the head must be neatly groomed. The length and bulk of the hair may not be excessive and must present a neat and conservative appearance. The hair must present a tapered appearance. A tapered appearance is one where the outline of the Cadet's hair conforms to the shape of the head, curving inward to the natural termination point at the base of the neck. When the hair is combed, it will not fall over the ears or eyebrows, or touch the collar, except for the closely cut hair at the back of the neck. The block-cut fullness in the back is permitted to a moderate degree, as long as the tapered look is maintained. Males are not authorized to wear braids, cornrows, twists, dreadlocks, or locks while in uniform or in civilian clothes on duty. Haircuts with a single, untampered patch of hair on the top of the head (not consistent with natural hair loss) are considered eccentric and are not authorized. Examples include, but are not limited to, when the head is shaved around a strip of hair down the center of the head (Mohawk), around a u-shaped hair area (horseshoe), or around a patch of hair on the front top of the head (tear drop). Hair that is completely shaved or trimmed closely to the scalp is authorized.

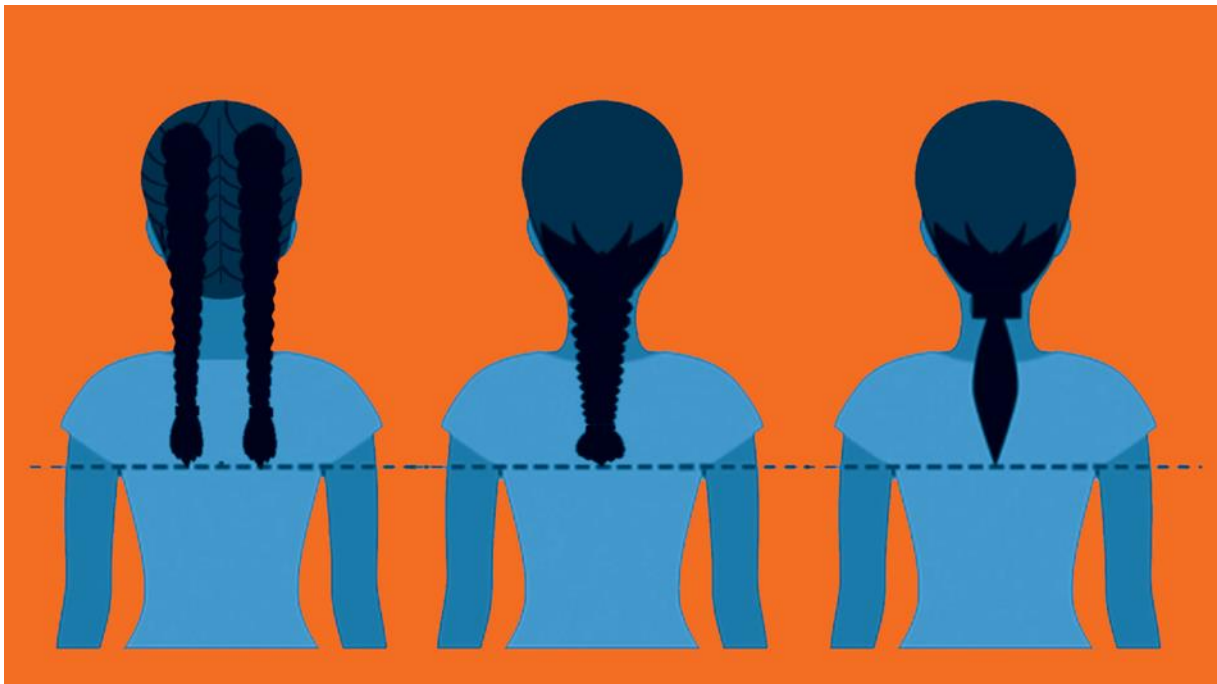
- a) **Sideburns.** Sideburns are hair grown in front of the ear and below the point where the top portion of the ear attaches to the head. Sideburns will not extend below the top of the opening of the ear. Sideburns will not be styled to taper, flair, or come to a point. The length of the individual hairs of the sideburn will not exceed 1/8 inch when fully extended.
- b) **Facial hair.** Males will keep their face clean-shaven when in uniform, or in civilian clothes on duty. Mustaches are not permitted. If appropriate medical authority (dermatologist) allows beard growth, the maximum length authorized for medical treatment must be specific. For example, "The length of the beard cannot exceed 1/4 inch". Cadets will keep the growth trimmed to the level specified by the appropriate medical authority, but are not authorized to shape the hair growth (examples include, but are not limited to goatees, "Fu Manchu," or handlebar mustaches).
- c) **Wigs and hairpieces.** Males are prohibited from wearing wigs or hairpieces while in uniform, or in civilian clothes on duty, except to cover natural baldness or physical disfiguration caused by accident or medical procedure. When worn, wigs or hairpieces will conform to the standard haircut criteria, as stated within this regulation.

3) **Female haircuts and hairstyles.** The illustrations provided are intended only to clarify language regarding authorized hair lengths and bulks. The requirements for hair regulations are to maintain uniformity within a military population for female Cadets while in uniform, or in civilian clothes on duty, unless otherwise specified. Female hairstyles may not be eccentric or faddish and will present a conservative, professional appearance. For the purpose of these regulations, female hairstyles are organized into three basic categories: short length, medium length, and long length hair.

- a) **Short length.** Short hair is defined as hair length that extends no more than 1 inch from the scalp (excluding bangs). Hair may be no shorter than 1/4 inch from the scalp (unless due to medical condition or injury), but may be evenly tapered to the scalp within 2 inches of the hairline edges. Bangs, if worn, may not fall below the eyebrows, may not interfere with the wear of all headgear, must lie neatly against the head, and not be visible underneath the front of the headgear. The width of the bangs may extend to the hairline at the temple.
- b) **Medium length.** Medium hair is defined as hair length that does not extend beyond the lower edge of the collar (in all uniforms), and extends more than 1 inch from the scalp. Medium hair may fall naturally in uniform, and is not required to be secured. When worn loose, graduated hair styles are acceptable, but the length, as measured from the end of the total hair length to the base of the collar, may not exceed 1-inch difference in length, from the front to the back. Layered hairstyles are also authorized, so long as each hair's length, as measured from the scalp to the hair's end, is generally the same length giving a tapered appearance. The regulations for the wear of bangs detailed in paragraph No portion of the bulk of the hair, as measured from the scalp, will exceed 2 inches.
- c) **Long length.** Long hair is defined as hair length that extends beyond the lower edge of the collar. Long hair will be neatly and inconspicuously fastened or pinned above the lower edge of the collar (except when worn in accordance with para 4-2a(j)), except that bangs may be worn.

- d) **Length/Bun.** No portion of the bulk of the hair, as measured from the scalp as styled, will exceed 2 inches (except a bun, which is worn on the back of the head and may extend a maximum of 3 1/2 inches from the scalp and be no wider than the width of the head).
- e) **Additional hairstyle guidelines.** Faddish and exaggerated styles, to include shaved portions of the scalp other than the neckline, designs cut in the hair, unsecured ponytails (except during physical training), and unbalanced or lopsided hairstyles are prohibited. Hair will be styled so as not to interfere with the proper wear of all uniform headgear. All headgear will fit snugly and comfortably around the largest part of the head without bulging or distortion from the intended shape of the headgear and without excessive gaps. When headgear is worn, hair should not protrude at distinct angles from under the edges. Hairstyles that do not allow the headgear to be worn in this manner are prohibited. Examples of hairstyles considered to be faddish or exaggerated and thus not authorized for wear while in uniform or in civilian clothes on duty include, but are not limited to hair sculpting (eccentric texture or directional flow of any hairstyle to include spiking); buns with loose hair extending at the end; hair styles with severe angles or designs; and loose unsecured hair (not to include bangs) when medium and long hair are worn up.
- f) **Devices.** Hair holding devices are authorized only for the purpose of securing the hair. Cadets will not place hair-holding devices in the hair for decorative purposes. All hair holding devices must be plain and of a color as close to the Cadet's hair as is possible or clear. Authorized devices include, but are not limited to, small plain scrunchies (elastic hair bands covered with material), barrettes, combs, pins, clips, rubber bands, and hair/head bands. Such devices should conform to the natural shape of the head. Devices that are conspicuous, excessive, or decorative are prohibited. Some examples of prohibited devices include, but are not limited to: large, lacy scrunchies; beads, bows, or claw or alligator clips; clips, pins, or barrettes with butterflies, flowers, sparkles, gems, or scalloped edges; and bows made from hairpieces. Foreign material (for example, beads and decorative items) will not be used in the hair. Cadets may not wear hairnets unless they are required for health or safety reasons, or in the performance of duties (such as those in a dining facility). No other type of hair covering is authorized in lieu of the hairnet. The commander will provide the hairnet at no cost to the Cadet.
- g) **Braids, cornrows, and twists.** Medium and long hair may be styled with braids, cornrows, or twists. Each braid, cornrow, or twist will be of uniform dimension, have a diameter no greater than 1/2 inch, and present a neat, professional, and well-groomed appearance. Each must have the same approximate size of spacing between the braids, cornrows, or twists. Each hairstyle may be worn against the scalp or loose (free-hanging). When worn loose, such hairstyles must be worn per medium hair length guidelines or secured to the head in the same manner as described for medium or long length hair styles. Ends must be secured inconspicuously. When multiple loose braids or twists are worn, they must encompass the whole head. When braids, twists, or cornrows are not worn loosely and instead worn close to the scalp, they may stop at one consistent location of the head and must follow the natural direction of the hair when worn back, which is either in general straight lines following the shape of the head or flowing with the natural direction of the hair when worn back with one primary part in the hair. Hairstyles may not be styled with designs, sharply curved lines, or zigzag lines. Only one distinctive style

(braided, rolled, or twisted) may be worn at one time. Braids, cornrows, or twists that distinctly protrude (up or out) from the head are not authorized.



- The bulk of the hair cannot be wider than your head, and if you decide to wear a single braid or ponytail, it needs to be centered – no side ponytails or side braids.
- If you decide to wear two braids, they will need to be evenly spaced, and look symmetrical when viewed from the back of your head.
- The length of your hair when worn in this manner cannot extend below the horizontal line centered between your shoulder blades.

Exceptions:

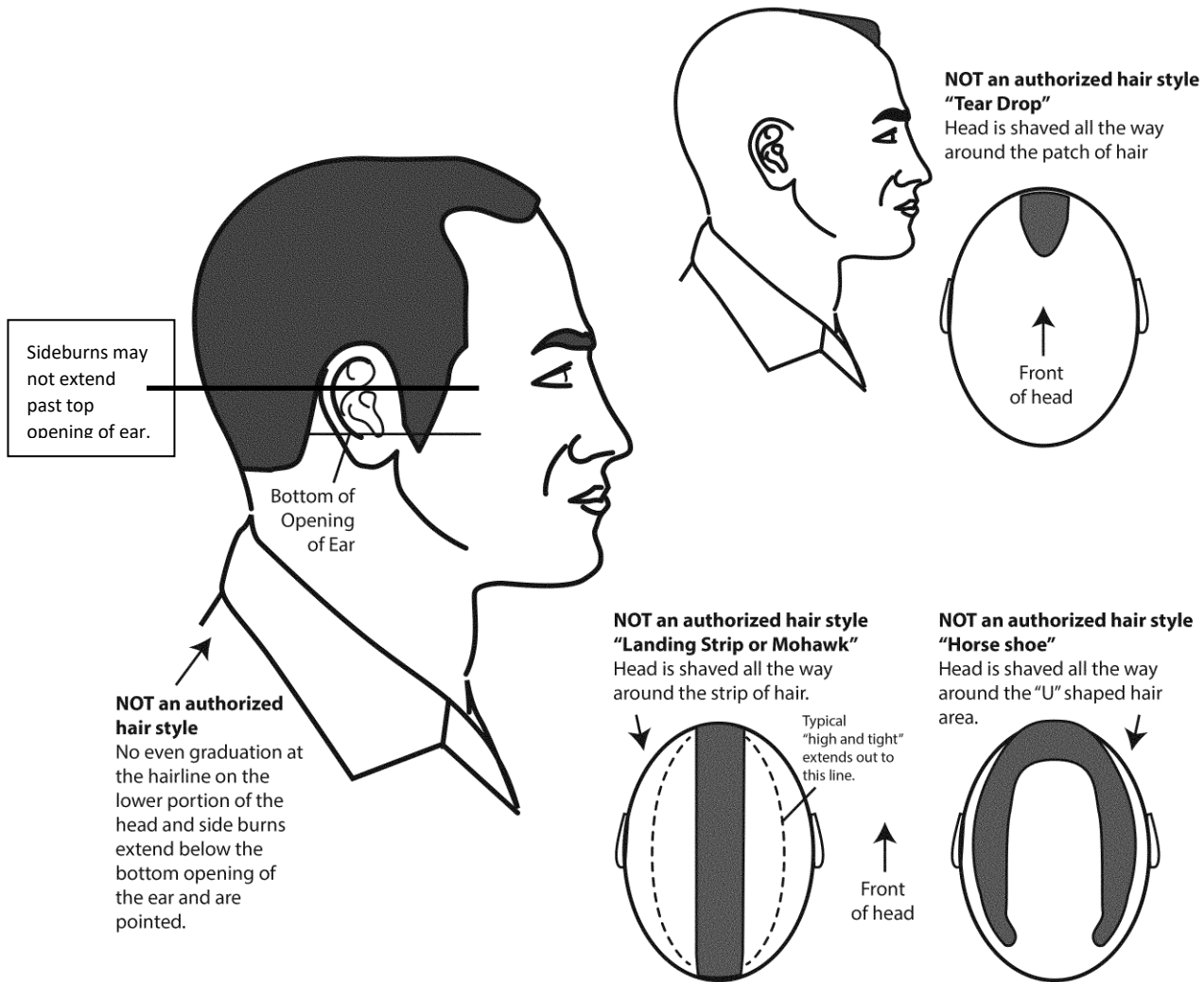
- When wearing the Class A or Class B uniform.
 - When participating in a parade or formal Pass in Review.
 - When otherwise designated by the Commandant of Cadets.
- h) **Dreadlocks or locks.** Any style of dreadlock or lock (against the scalp or free-hanging) is not authorized.
- i) **Hair extensions.** Hair extensions are authorized. Extensions must have the same general appearance as the individual's natural hair and otherwise conform to this regulation.

- j) **Wigs.** Wigs, if worn in uniform or in civilian clothes on duty, must look natural and conform to this regulation. Wigs are not authorized to cover up unauthorized hairstyles.
- k) **Physical training.** Long length hair may be worn in a ponytail during physical training. A single ponytail centered on the back of the head is authorized in physical fitness uniforms only when within the scope of physical training, except when considered a safety hazard. The ponytail is not required to be worn above the collar. When hair-securing devices are worn, they will comply with the guidelines. Hairstyles otherwise authorized in this chapter (such as braids and twists) may also be worn in a ponytail during physical training.
- l) **Physical training in utility uniforms.** Ponytails are authorized using guidelines while conducting physical training in utility uniforms.
- m) **Cosmetics.** Standards regarding cosmetics are necessary to maintain uniformity and to avoid an extreme or unprofessional appearance. Males are prohibited from wearing cosmetics, except when medically prescribed. Females are authorized to wear cosmetics with all uniforms, provided they are applied modestly and conservatively, and that they complement both the Cadet's complexion and the uniform. Leaders at all levels must exercise good judgment when interpreting and enforcing this policy.
 - i. Eccentric, exaggerated, or faddish cosmetic styles and colors, to include makeup designed to cover tattoos, are inappropriate with the uniform and are prohibited. Permanent makeup, such as eyebrow or eyeliner, is authorized as long as the makeup conforms to the standards outlined above. Eyelash extensions are not authorized unless medically prescribed.
 - ii. Females will not wear shades of lipstick that distinctly contrast with the natural color of their lips, that detract from the uniform, or that are faddish, eccentric, or exaggerated.
 - iii. Females will comply with the cosmetics policy while in any military uniform or while in civilian clothes on duty.

4) **Fingernails.** All personnel will keep fingernails clean and neatly trimmed. Males will keep nails trimmed so as not to extend beyond the fingertip unless medically required and are not authorized to wear nail polish. Females will not exceed a nail length of 1/4 inch as measured from the tip of the finger. Females will trim nails shorter if the TAC or Commandant determines that the longer length detracts from a professional appearance, presents a safety concern, or interferes with the performance of duties. Females may only wear clear polish when in uniform or while in civilian clothes on duty. Females may wear clear acrylic nails, provided they have a natural appearance and conform to MMI standards.

5) **Hygiene and body grooming.** Cadets will maintain good personal hygiene and grooming on a daily basis and wear the uniform so as not to detract from their overall military appearance.

Figure 6-1 Prohibited Male Grooming Standards



Longest hair 1-inch from scalp
Shortest hair 1/4-inch from scalp,
but may be graduated to the hairline

Female Grooming Standards

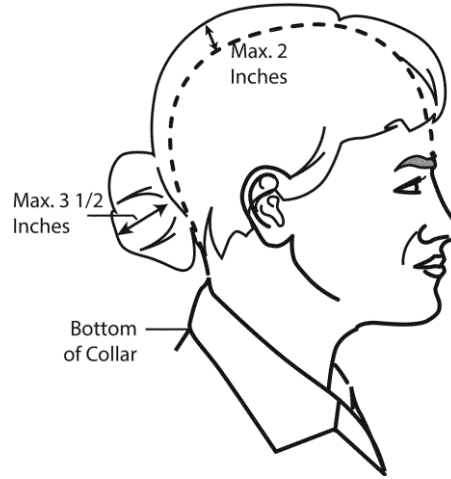
Short Hair Length Medium Hair Length
Length



Long Hair Length



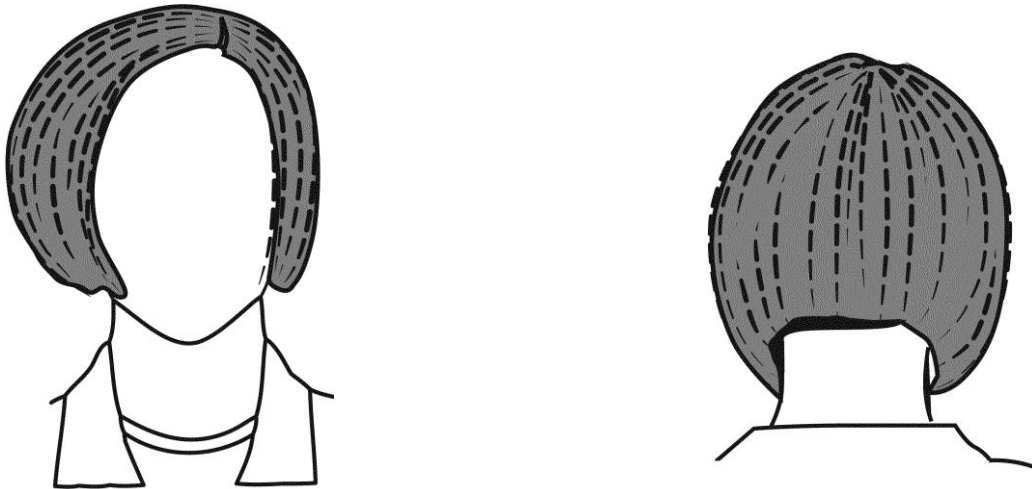
Bulk of Hair



Buns may be no wider than the width of the head

Figure 4-3. Female Hairstyle Standards

Braids or fashionable styles must conform to all hair and appearance standards



6) **Tattoo, Branding, and Body Mutilation.**

Tattoos and brands are permanent markings that are difficult to reverse (in terms of financial cost, discomfort, and effectiveness of removal techniques). Before obtaining either a tattoo or a brand, Cadets should consider talking to unit leaders to ensure that they understand the MMI tattoo and brand policy. The words tattoo and brand are interchangeable in regards to this policy.

- a) The following types of tattoos or brands are prejudicial to good order and discipline and are, therefore, prohibited anywhere on a Cadet's body:
 - i. **Extremist.** Extremist tattoos or brands are those affiliated with, depicting, or symbolizing extremist philosophies, organizations, or activities. Extremist philosophies, organizations, and activities are those which advocate racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocate, create, or engage in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, ethnicity, religion, or national origin; or advocate violence or other unlawful means of depriving individual rights under the U.S. Constitution, and Federal or State law.
 - ii. **Indecent.** Indecent tattoos or brands are those that are grossly offensive to modesty, decency, propriety, or professionalism.
 - iii. **Sexist.** Sexist tattoos or brands are those that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on gender.
 - iv. **Racist.** Racist tattoos or brands are those that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.
- b) Tattoos or brands, regardless of subject matter, are prohibited on the head, face (except for permanent makeup, neck (anything above the t-shirt neckline to include on/inside the eyelids, mouth, and ears), wrists, and hands, except Cadets may have one ring tattoo on each hand, below the joint of the bottom segment (portion closest to the palm) of the finger.

7) **Jewelry.**

This paragraph is punitive with regard to Cadets. Violation by Cadets may result in adverse administrative action and/or charges under the provisions of the MMI Disciplinary procedures.

- a. Cadets may wear a wristwatch, a wrist identification bracelet, and a total of two rings (a wedding set is considered one ring) with MMI uniforms, unless prohibited by the Commandant for safety or health reasons. Additionally, no more than one ring per hand may be worn. Cadets may also wear one activity tracker, pedometer, or heart rate monitor. Any jewelry or monitors worn by

Cadets while in uniform or in civilian clothes on duty must be conservative. Identification bracelets are limited to medical alert bracelets, and missing in action, prisoner of war, or killed in action (black or silver in color only) bracelets. Cadets are only authorized to wear one item on each wrist while in uniform, or in civilian clothes on duty. An activity tracker, pedometer, or heart rate monitor may be worn, in addition to the one item (watch or identification bracelet) authorized to be worn on each wrist. All jewelry must be of a conservative style and in good taste. The wearing of a purely religious medal on a chain around the neck is authorized provided neither the medal nor the chain is exposed. Fad devices, vogue medallions, personal talismans, or amulets are not authorized for wear by cadets in uniform. Cadets in uniform may wear no other jewelry or decorative devices as a result of body piercing.

- b. Females are authorized to wear earrings with the service and duty uniforms.
 - i. Earrings may be screw-on, clip-on, or post-type earrings in gold, silver, white pearl, or diamond. The earrings will not exceed 6 mm or 1/4 inch in diameter, and they must be unadorned and spherical. When worn, the earrings will fit snugly against the ear. Females may wear earrings only as a matched pair, with only one earring per ear lobe.
 - ii. Females are not authorized to wear earrings with any combat uniform.
 - iii. When in civilian clothes on duty, female Cadets must comply with the specifications listed in 7) b. i. above when wearing earrings, unless otherwise authorized by the commandant.
 - iv. When females are not in uniform and off duty, earring wear is not restricted as long as the earrings do not create or support ear gauging (enlarged holes in the lobe of the ear, greater than 1.6mm).
- c. Male cadets may not wear earrings.