

To whom it may concern,

I am a _____ (medical, dental, nursing, etc) student who wears the Hijab. Hijab is a practice of modesty that entails a religious veil for Muslim women which covers her hair and all other parts of her body, except for hands, in front of males. My Hijab is a big part of my identity and I would not feel comfortable having to alter the way I dress or tie my hijab when there are reasonable accommodations that exist and are in place.

I am reaching out regarding the institution's policy on religious head coverings in the operating room. In the spirit of diversity and inclusion, I would like to share the updated guidelines put forth by the Association of peri-Operative Registered Nurses (AORN) on proper surgical attire addressing the permissibility of a hijab and other religious head covers in the operating room.

As of May 26, 2021, the association updated its recommendations to include "religious head coverings (eg, head scarves [hijabs], veils, turbans, bonnets) that are clean, constructed of tightly-woven and low-linting material, are without adornments, and fit securely with loose ends tucked in the scrub top may be worn to cover the hair and scalp in the semi-restricted and restricted area." You can read the rest of AORN's statement [here](#).

Along the lines of the headscarf, traditional scrub tops do not align with proper hijab. Since scrubs are generally short-sleeve, please have scrub jackets, either disposable or those that can be laundered with the scrubs, readily available and easily accessible for Hijab-wearing women.

We hope that with these guidelines, your institution can proactively foster a safe learning environment for all its trainees. In order for our students and trainees to feel comfortable clinically, we have to allow them to feel comfortable personally - be that with their self-expression or religious identity.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. For further information regarding Hijab in the Operating Room, please check out HijabInTheOR.com.

Sincerely,
