

Clinical Education Policy 509

Immunizations and Training Required of Students Prior to Off-Site Clinical Placements

Effective Date: August 25, 2021

Supersedes Date: May 1, 2023

Review Date: May 2027

Policy: This policy is intended to protect both students and clients. Clinical placements have varying requirements of students to show evidence of immunizations, a Tuberculin (TB) test, criminal background check, CPR certification, and drug testing to participate in a clinical experience.

All students who provide clinical services through external agencies are required to have an appropriate criminal background check that meets the standards of the facility, a Tuberculin (TB) test upon entrance into the program, an annual flu shot, TDap vaccination and current CPR certification.

Procedure:

I. Notification

- a. The program will notify incoming students of the requirements stated in this policy before entering the program.
- b. Students will also be notified in advance if they are responsible for any associated costs to meet these requirements.

II. Tests/Vaccinations

- a. Students are required to obtain a TB test or chest x-ray upon beginning the program. A student may be required to provide an updated TB test prior to an external placement.
- b. The TDap vaccination is required every ten years.
- c. An annual flu shot is required each fall.
- d. The HEP-B vaccination series or waiver is required by both MSHC and off-site facilities.
- e. Some off-site practicum sites require the COVID-19 vaccination before starting the practicum, and they do not offer exemptions. This may impact clinical opportunities or on-time graduation.
- f. Students will upload a copy of the documentation to the online clinical hours and compliance system within the first week of the Fall semester and keep a copy of the original for their records.

III. CPR and AED2 Certification

- a. All students are to take a CPR course offered by a reputable entity covering CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training for health care providers, including a hands-on practical examination.
- b. Students will upload a copy of the documentation to the online clinical hours and compliance system within the first week of the Fall semester and keep a copy of the original for their records.

IV. Criminal background check

- a. Students should be aware that criminal convictions may make them ineligible to participate in any clinical experiences included in the program, therefore necessitating removal from the program and/or impacting one's ability to successfully complete course and program requirements.
- b. Students assigned to the public or private schools may need a TBI criminal background check and finger printing completed through the College of Education at the University of Memphis. [Detailed instructions can be found here](#). Some school districts may require a maximum amount of time since the completed background check.
- c. All faculty, staff, and students who interact with minors on or off-campus must have a TBI criminal background check and finger printing completed every 5 years through the College of Education at the U of Memphis. [Detailed instructions can be found here](#).
- d. Students assigned to medical facilities will need a national background check. There is an additional cost associated with this procedure.
- e. There are potential consequences associated with failing a criminal background check regarding licensure. If a student answers "yes" to any of the questions below, it is possible that they may be denied licensure at the end of the degree program.
 - i. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or crime(s) other than minor traffic offenses?
 - ii. Have you ever been denied licensure of the profession for which you might apply for licensure or had discipline imposed by another state's licensing board?
 - iii. Have you ever had a civil suit judgment entered against you or entered an adverse civil settlement?
- f. Students must review the state licensure requirements specific to the discipline by contacting the specific licensing board. It is the student's responsibility to understand.

V. Drug Testing

- a. Students who provide clinical services may be required to complete drug testing as a stipulation of the external clinical placement. Each agency will determine the requirements for drug testing for its facilities.
- b. Any student found to have failed drug testing may be unable to complete the requirements of the program.
- c. If a student fails a drug test, the external facility will determine if the student can retake the test. The external site has the right to refuse placement for the semester.
- d. If a student fails a drug test, placement at MSHC or any other facility will not be possible until the drug test is retaken and passed. The student may only retake the drug test once in a semester. This may affect the student's completion of clinical experience for that semester and potentially delay his/her program.

VI. Records and Dissemination of Information

- a. Students will upload proof of the required tests and procedures to their private record in the online clinical hours and compliance system and keep a copy of the original for their records.

- b. The expiration date for each item will be entered with oversight from the Directors of Clinical Education or their designee.
- c. It is the responsibility of the student to remain current with all records and procedures.
- d. If a site requires documented proof of the test results, it will be the responsibility of the student to provide the information.