

IMMUNIZATIONS and PRESCREENING FOR DRUGS & CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS POLICIES

(In Brief)

(7/3/03 & 8/30/04, respectively; last revised 6/2/09)

The Blinn College Allied Health Programs faculty and students are required to maintain current immunization status. Proof of immunization status is mandatory for attendance in the clinical agencies. These are included on the Health Data Forms required for each Program, and kept in **separate locked files than the students' permanent files.**

Immunizations

Specific immunizations and/or verification of having had the disease (date of immunization and/or disease, titer) are required by Texas Department of State Health Services (TSDHS) prior to attendance in the clinical area.

These include:

1. **TB test** (within previous 6 months). **TB skin test** is required to be repeated annually while in program. Documentation of a negative chest x-ray and/or prophylaxis is acceptable for faculty and students who are unable to have skin testing.
2. **Tetanus toxoid** or booster is required every 10 years; proof must be furnished of one in the last 10 years.
3. Usual childhood illnesses
 - a) **rubeola** (measles)
 - b) **rubella** (German measles)
 - c) **mumps**
 - Proof of an MMR vaccination
 - Or a serum titer confirming immunity to each disease
 - Parent or guardian certification statement that you had each disease as a child
 - **Note:** Students born before January 1, 1957 are exempt from the MMR or measles requirement
 - a second measles vaccination (may be part of a second MMR)
 - **Note:** There must be at least one month between the first and second MMR vaccination
 - d) **varicella** (chicken pox)
 - A physician-documented history of the disease
 - Documentation of two varicella immunizations
 - A serum titer confirming immunity
 - Parent or guardian certification statement that you had chicken pox as a child
 - **Note:** The varicella injection series is a four-week process

4. **Hepatitis B series**-- Students may be admitted provisionally (in some programs—see **specific program for details**) with the series in process. Clinical experiences begin early in some programs, and students **will not be allowed to attend clinical without the series completed**.
 - a complete 3-injection series of hepatitis B vaccinations
 - a serum titer confirming immunity
 - **Note: The hepatitis B injection series is a 3-6 month process**
5. Students who have a history of not having had immunizations, due to **health** or **conscientious objector** reasons, **must** have an appropriate waiver and documentation in their health file.

Note: All immunizations & Prescreening requirements are at the student's expense.

Therefore, students who anticipate applying to a specific program for the fall **MUST** have their first hepatitis B injection no later than March 1st, the second injection no later than April 1st, and the third injection prior to first day of class. For spring admissions to a specific program, the first hepatitis B injection must be administered no later than July 1. Please contact the Program Office if you have any questions regarding this required immunization series.

Criminal background checks and drug screens

In order to be in compliance with clinical affiliating agencies accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and Organizations (JCAHO) (2005 JCAHO Standard HR 1.20, last updated 3/15/02), as well as other accrediting bodies for other affiliating agencies, the following requirements will apply to students in the Allied Health Programs.

1. All drug screens and CBCs must be conducted **after admission** to the respective Allied Health Program and **before the first day of class**.
2. Pending results of the CBC and drug screen, the student will be **conditionally accepted** into one of the Allied Health Programs.
3. Drug screens must be conducted within 30 days of a person's first clinical rotation or after a break in enrollment.
4. Verification of satisfactory CBC and drug screen results must be received **prior** to the **first clinical** day in the student's program.
5. The results will be honored by all clinical agencies for the duration of the student's enrollment in the respective Allied Health Program. A **break in enrollment** is defined as a "stop out" of a program and nonattendance for a portion of a semester or more.
6. The Criminal Background Check will be done by an external vendor and will review the individual's criminal history, including the cities, counties, and states of all know residences.
7. The student is expected to disclose current use of any drug or alcohol, including prescription medications for specific health conditions.

8. **NOTE: Specific convictions may keep the individual from licensure eligibility.** For eligibility questions, contact the respective Program's **licensure/credentialing agency**, available on each Program's web-page. Many convictions will require that a **Declaratory Order** be filed with the appropriate credentialing agency prior to admission to the Program.
9. **NOTE: An individual with a positive drug screen upon admission will NOT be admitted to the respective Program but will be asked to withdraw from the Program and seek treatment.**
10. Other than an error relative to identity, there will be no appeal of this policy, because it is relative to a compliance issue with the College's clinical agencies, TSDHS, and accreditation/credentialing bodies.

**Should you have any questions regarding the immunization requirements,
please contact the Program Office.**