

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Drug Screening for Students Enrolled in Degree Programs with Clinical Experiences

Scope/ Designated Programs	This policy applies to all OUHSC students/accepted applicants admitted to designated degree programs that include or may include a clinical experience at a health care facility that requires drug screening as a condition of its affiliation with the University. Students should check with their college and/or degree program for specific requirements. For purposes of this policy, the term “Clinical Experience” includes clinical and observational rotations, and any other clinical-based experiential learning.
Policy	Drug screening(s) are required of all students in designated programs as defined in Scope/Designated Programs above. As applicable, students/accepted applicants who do not pass the drug screening may be unable to complete degree requirements or may be denied admission to or suspended or dismissed from the degree program.
Rationale	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health care providers are entrusted with the health, safety, and welfare of patients; have access to confidential and sensitive information; and operate in settings that require the exercise of good judgment and ethical behavior. Thus, an assessment of a student’s or accepted applicant’s suitability to function in a clinical setting is imperative to promote the highest level of integrity in health care services. 2. Clinical Experiences are an essential element in certain degree programs’ curricula. Patient safety concerns have led many health care institutions and clinical facilities to require drug testing of health care providers. In addition to the University’s belief that this is an appropriate patient safety decision, drug testing is now a prerequisite for many facilities to accept student assignments. 3. This policy allows the University to balance the needs of students, while protecting the interests of its patients and any affiliated health care facilities. It also allows the University to (a) meet the contractual obligations contained in affiliation agreements between OUHSC and the various health care facilities; (b) perform due diligence and competency assessment of all individuals who may have contact with patients and/or research participants; (c) ensure uniform compliance with accreditation standards and agency regulations pertaining to human resource management; and (d) meet the public demands of greater diligence in light of the national reports on deaths resulting from medical malpractice and medical errors.

<p>Timing and Procedures of the Drug Screening</p> <p>Accepted Applicants: (as defined in Scope/ Designated Programs)</p> <p>Current Students: (as defined in Scope/ Designated Programs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accepted applicants in designated programs must complete the following prior to the start of classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the necessary procedures and consent forms provided by their respective college/program. - Complete and sign the drug screening vendor’s consent and release Form and return the form to drug screening vendor. - Successfully pass the drug screen with sufficient time for the vendor to provide clearance documentation to the respective college/program designee. This may require time for retests in cases where specimens are diluted. For more information on what constitutes successfully passing the drug screen, see “Reporting of Findings” below. <p>If an accepted applicant fails to complete the above prior to the first day of classes, the accepted applicant will not be allowed to begin classes and will jeopardize admission status to the respective college/program.</p> ● Current students in designated programs will be drug tested at the beginning of each academic year or more frequently if required by the clinical rotation site or by the OUHSC. ● Students who need to complete drug screening will be provided with the necessary procedures and consent forms for the required drug screening by the respective college designee. ● Students who fail to adhere to the drug testing deadline set by their college will be suspended from all classes until the approved vendor provides OUHSC with clearance documentation to the college designee.
<p>Identification of Vendors</p>	<p>OUHSC will designate an approved vendor(s) to perform the drug screenings. Results from any company or government entity other than those designated by OUHSC will not be accepted.</p>
<p>Allocation of the Cost</p>	<p>Students and accepted applicants must pay the cost of the drug screenings.</p>
<p>Period of Validity</p>	<p>Drug screening will generally be honored by OUHSC for a period of one year but may be required on a more frequent basis depending on the requirements of a clinical rotation site. Students who have a break in enrollment may be required to retest before they can re-enroll in any courses. A break in enrollment is defined as non-attendance of one full semester (Fall or Spring) or more. A student on Leave of Absence is considered by OUHSC to be in continuous enrollment.</p>

<p>Drugs Screened</p>	<p>The drug screening shall test for a variety of illicit or otherwise controlled substances as dictated by each college or program. This shall include tests for amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, and opioids (including opiates), and any other controlled substance as identified by the college or program. Drug screenings may also include tests for substances that applicants or enrolled students take pursuant to authorized prescriptions from licensed physicians or pursuant to a valid Oklahoma Medical Marijuana License.</p>
<p>Reporting of Findings and Student/Accepted Applicant Access to Drug Screening Report</p>	<p>Students with a positive drug screen will have an opportunity to consult with a Medical Review Officer, provided by the vendor, to verify whether there is a valid medical explanation for the screening results. Where applicants and students have a valid prescription or Medical Marijuana license, they will have an opportunity to meet with a Medical Review Officer to provide the valid prescription or Medical Marijuana license for any positive test results as noted below. Positive test results with valid medical explanations will not constitute offenses under this policy. However, students may not be able to participate at certain clinical sites and must comply with the rules of each site.</p> <p>If, after review by the vendor’s Medical Review Officer, there is a valid medical explanation for the screening results, the vendor will notify the University of a clear test. If, after review by the Medical Review Officer, there is not a valid medical explanation for the positive screen then the test results will stand.</p> <p>The vendor will provide the respective college or program designee with a list of those students who passed a drug screen test. The vendor will also provide the student/accepted applicant with the results of the drug screening report.</p> <p>Should the vendor report that the screening specimen was diluted, thereby precluding an accurate drug screen test, the student/accepted applicant will be required to complete and successfully pass a new drug screen test prior to the start of classes.</p> <p>Any appeal right of a positive screen rests solely between the student/accepted applicant, the Medical Review Officer, and the vendor.</p>

<p>Confidentiality of Records</p>	<p>Drug screening reports and all records pertaining to the results are considered confidential with restricted access. The results and records are subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA] regulations. For additional information on FERPA, please see http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html.</p>
<p>Recordkeeping</p>	<p>Reports and related records (both electronic and paper media) are retained in a secure location and are maintained in the respective college or program office for the timeframe listed below unless otherwise required by law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Students – 5 years • Accepted Applicants – 2 years (provided no legal complaint)