

Clark College Nursing Program

Policies and Processes: Clinical Compliance Requirements Policy

What is the Purpose of this Policy?

The Clark College nursing program requires students to complete clinical experience with direct patient care as part of their academic requirements to ensure that graduates of our program meet the Washington Board of Nursing (WABON) requirements for licensure as a registered nurse.

This policy provides information, guidance, and criteria to nursing students regarding the requirements for attending clinical placement experiences. The primary purpose of the requirements is to mitigate risk to students and patients regarding safety, privacy, and infection control. The people receiving care within the settings where clinical experiences are scheduled will be among the most vulnerable in our society, such as those with chronic medical conditions, including being immunosuppressed, the elderly, newborns, and other social determinants of health.

Who is affected by this policy?

All nursing students

Aligned Clark College Policies, Nursing Program Policies, Legal Requirements and WAC:

WAC 246-840-519. Student requirements in all approved nursing education programs.

(1) The nursing education program shall hold students accountable for professional behavior as identified in chapters 18.79, 18.130 RCW, and 246-840 WAC, including, academic honesty and integrity. (2) Written policies and procedures for students must be available and communicated in a fair, accurate, inclusive, and consistent manner. (3) The approved nursing education program shall: (xii) Background check requirements; (xiii) Immunization requirements;

WAC 388-113-0020 Disqualifying Crimes

RCW 18.130.180 Unprofessional conduct.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommendations for immunizations for healthcare workers

Clark College Nursing Department Policy on Substance Abuse

Related Documents, Forms, and Tools:

ACEMAPP

COMPLIO

American Heart Association (<https://cpr.heart.org/en/cpr-courses-and-kits/healthcare-professional/basic-life-support-bls-training>)

Policy:

Clinical compliance requirements are a condition of admission to the nursing program. The requirements are determined by the clinical placement sites and the StudentMax clinical placement consortium, which many clinical sites use for clinical placement requests.

Nursing students are responsible for ensuring that all clinical requirements are up to date and in compliance with all requirements both in this policy and any additional for specific clinical placement sites. “In compliance” means that documentation uploaded to the clinical compliance platform is in approved/compliant status (ACEMAPP) and available for verification (Complio and original documents) by the nursing program and/or clinical facility.

Nursing students must complete the following initial compliance requirements:

- Medical clearance form (must be within 90 days of beginning).
- Evidence of active full coverage medical insurance (for the duration of the program).
- **MMR** – Two (2) doses of MMR (at least 28 days apart) **OR** proof of immunity (positive titers for each component of the vaccine (Measles (rubeola), Mumps, Rubella)).
- **HEP B** – Complete series (2 doses of Heplisav-B, 3 doses Energix-B, 3 doses Recombivax HB or CDC accepted combination) **AND** proof of immunity (positive titer –Hepatitis B Surface Antibody (HBsAB or anti-HBs) or documentation of non-conversion).
 - Students who have not had Hepatitis B vaccines before admission to the nursing program or accepted alternate status must have their first two doses (given at least 28 days apart) completed before the stated deadline included in onboarding materials. After program entry, students must continue to follow the recommended timeline and obtain the third vaccine and titer to maintain compliance.
 - Students who completed the three-vaccine series before admission to the nursing program or accepted alternate status must obtain and upload titer results and vaccine records before the stated deadline.
 - Students with a negative titer follow the recommendations of their provider and upload documentation of booster vaccines and subsequent titer. Students must have one additional dose completed before the stated deadline included in onboarding materials and a second dose before the start of the quarter or with an approved extension, before the first clinical day. After program entry, students must continue to follow the recommended timeline and obtain the third vaccine and titer to maintain compliance.
 - Where a student’s titer remains negative after an additional full vaccine series (2 or 3 doses depending on the vaccine brand) and a healthcare provider determines that they are a non-converter, a letter confirming this status must be documented.

- **VARICELLA (Chicken Pox)** – Two (2) doses of the varicella vaccine at least 28 days apart **OR** proof of immunity (positive titer).
- **Tdap (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (whooping cough) Vaccine** – One-time dose of Tdap and a Td booster every 10 years.
- **TB – Tuberculosis Skin Testing (PPD/TST)** – If you have never been tested for TB or it has been more than 1 year since your last test, a ‘two-step’ test is required (two tests administered 1-3 weeks apart). Other acceptable screening tests include a blood test (QFT-G or T-spot). A negative chest x-ray may only be used for documentation for anyone who has had a previous positive result or received BCG.
- **COVID Vaccine** - A primary series of bivalent or monovalent vaccines. Students do have the option to decline the COVID vaccine. Students who decline must acknowledge that exposure to patients in healthcare facilities and settings brings a risk of exposure to microorganisms and diseases, including COVID. Students who decline the COVID vaccine will be expected to follow the established procedures from the clinical training site, and if there are cases of COVID or an outbreak, may be asked to leave the clinical setting or wear a respiratory mask or other protective equipment during clinical hours in accordance with the policies of the clinical facility.
- **Influenza Vaccine** – Current seasonal vaccination required before each quarter (Fall, Winter, and Spring). Students do have the option to decline the influenza vaccine. Students who decline must acknowledge that exposure to patients in healthcare facilities and settings brings a risk of exposure to microorganisms and diseases, including influenza. Students who decline the influenza vaccine will be expected to follow the established procedures from the clinical training site, and if there are cases of influenza or an outbreak, may be asked to leave the clinical setting or wear a respiratory mask or other protective equipment during clinical hours in accordance with the policies of the clinical facility.
- **American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR** - All students are required to have a current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider certification card. The certification must be renewed every two years and must remain valid throughout the entire quarter.
- **Background Check** - Participating in clinical placements through the nursing program requires one or more criminal background check(s) and fingerprinting, according to Student Max Connections clinical consortium guidelines, and is required by clinical placement facilities. Nursing students must satisfy background check requirements per WAC 388-113-0020 and specific clinical sites.

Nursing students are required to self-disclose to the Associate Dean of Health Sciences any arrest, pending charge, or conviction that occurred before entry to the nursing program.

A student’s conviction or pending charge for any of the crimes listed in WAC 388-113-0020 is a failure to meet compliance requirements and will prevent the student from

attending clinical experiences, resulting in their acceptance to the nursing program being canceled.

- **Drug Screen** - A negative drug screen is required and must be completed within the stated deadlines. Deadlines are included in the selection decision letters and in the new student orientation Canvas shell. Delays in completing this requirement will be questioned.

Negative dilute urine drug screen results will require a repeat urine drug screen at the expense of the student. Students may only repeat a drug screen for a dilute result one time. If a second drug screen result is dilute, the student will be asked to meet with the Associate Dean of Health Sciences regarding their status in the program.

Positive results are a failure to meet compliance requirements and will prevent students from attending clinical experiences, resulting in their acceptance to the nursing program being canceled. RCW 69.51A.060(7) permits clinical sites to establish drug-free policies including denying an accommodation for the medical use of marijuana if an employer has a drug-free workplace policy. These clinical site policies apply to nursing students.

If a drug screen result is determined to be non-human or contain prohibited substances without a provider prescription, students are required to provide an explanation to the Associate Dean of Health Sciences, who may grant the opportunity for the student to complete a repeat drug screen.

Previous Quarter Alternates (PQA)

Students who were alternates for a previous quarter and then accepted into the next quarter must complete a new background check, drug screen and medical clearance along with ensuring all other compliance elements are up to date and will not expire during the quarter they are starting the program. The cost associated with updating the background check, drug screen, and medical clearance will be reimbursed by the nursing department. The cost of updating all other requirements is the student's responsibility.

Readmission

Students readmitted to the first quarter of the program must be in compliance a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the start of the program. In quarters where there is less than 2 weeks' notice, students must comply by the first day of the quarter or have an approved extension. Students who have been out of the program for 1 or more quarters must complete a new background, drug screen, and medical clearance along with ensuring all other compliance elements are up to date and will not expire during the quarter they are returning. Students who are readmitted in the immediate next quarter (no gap in time) only need to update and ensure their compliance requirements are up to date and will not expire during the quarter they are returning. The cost associated with updating requirements is the student's responsibility.

Annual and Ongoing Requirements

All students must be up to date by the first day of the quarter in which the immunization or other compliance requirement expires. This means that any requirement expiring during the quarter must be renewed before the quarter starts. If extenuating or other circumstances exist, and a requirement is not expired, an approved extension will be allowed.

Annual requirements: TB screening (2-step if already expired; 1 step if within 364 days of previous 2-step; or a blood test); influenza or declination (the current year vaccine needs to be documented no later than October 31st); training modules as assigned.

Ongoing requirements: Where AHA CPR (every 2 years) or DTAP (every 10 years) will expire during a quarter, the requirement must be renewed/completed before the start of the quarter. Repeat random drug screens may be required, without notice, if there is any observation or reasonable suspicion of a nursing student being impaired. See the policy on Substance Abuse. Nursing students will be responsible for the cost of repeat drug screening.

Nursing students must complete site-specific requirements by or before deadlines in each quarter before the subsequent quarter clinical placement.

Nursing students are required to self-disclose to the Associate Dean of Health Sciences any arrest, pending charge, or conviction that might occur during their time in the nursing program. This includes incidents that may occur while enrolled in the nursing program, including during breaks between quarters and summer break.

Non-Compliance: Failure to comply with initial timelines and processes may result in denial of admission to the nursing program and/or canceled alternate status. Nursing students who do not comply with this policy and established deadlines will not be allowed to attend clinical placement experiences. Students will be immediately sent home if they arrive at a clinical site and are not in compliance. Missing clinical days may put students at risk of failing their clinical course as it is not always possible to reschedule missed clinical days.

Revision History:

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