



DRUG SCREENING POLICY

The College of Nursing and Health Professions is committed to maintaining a safe, healthful, and efficient learning environment, which enhances the welfare of our employees, students, patients, and visitors. We therefore strictly prohibit the use of illegal substances by our students. This concurs with the University's Drug and Alcohol abuse prevention policies that govern the actions of both its students and employees.

While Arkansas State University does not require drug testing of their students, an increasing number of our clinical affiliates do as a matter of individual institutional policy.

Therefore, in accord with the university's position on drug abuse and as a direct result of certain individual institutional policies of our clinical affiliates any College students whose curriculum and clinical placement mandates such are required to undergo drug screening prior to being assigned to their clinical rotations.

If the clinical affiliate requires that the university assure students have satisfactorily passed a drug screen, these screening procedures will be performed by Arkansas State University's Student Health Department. Students will be responsible for any charges related to the drug screen. If the screening test results are not conclusive, then the student's specimen sample must be sent to another facility for additional testing (i.e. confirmatory laboratory testing). While no additional specimen will be required an additional cost will be incurred for the confirmatory test.

The confirmatory test may result in the student being contacted by an independent physician, Medical Review Officer (MRO), who has been charged with interpreting test results. This would be the appropriate time for the student to produce documentation of current prescription medication that could influence the test results. This contact will not occur in all cases but students should be aware it is a possibility and should be ready to supply additional information if requested at that time. Students can facilitate the overall process by providing copies of prescription medications to the Student Health Department at the time they present for their urine test. Students are not required to disclose information related to prescribed medicine to their department/school faculty or staff.

A single negative drug screen does not preclude the requirement of additional screens at future clinical placements. The need for additional drug screens will be based on clinical affiliate requirements. Any student removed from a clinical affiliation based on the results of a drug screen will be subject to the process outlined in this policy.

The current procedure for Athletic Training students needing to obtain a drug screen is as follows:

1. Students will fill out an authorization form at the school or department level for the release of student information. This will include the release of their name and department/school to student health for drug screening and the release of screen results if required by clinical affiliates.
2. Students may have drug screens performed by a local employer or through the athletic department. Any such screens must meet the screening criteria (i.e. screen for the drugs required by Arkansas State University's Student Health). In addition the employer or the athletic department must be willing to forward test results directly to Student Health for their records.
3. In all other cases, students must go to the Student Health Department at with their ASU picture identification badge. Initial screening tests will be performed on site.
4. Students fill out required student health paper work and provide a urine sample on site for testing. If confirmatory testing is not required (i.e. the sample is clearly negative in the screening procedure), a negative report will be sent to a confidential fax located in the Dean's area for the departments. Subsequently the report will be sent to the appropriate department chairperson or school director. No further action is required.
5. If confirmatory laboratory testing is required (i.e. the test site requires additional clarification), the sample is sent to an independent laboratory. This will require 48 to 72 hours to obtain the results and may require that the student be contacted for additional information by the MRO charged with interpreting the confirmatory test. This may require students to produce documentation of prescription medication that could influence the test results. **The student must respond to the MRO in a timely manner (within 5 days of the MRO's inquiry) or the test will be reported as positive.** The lab confirmatory test will have an additional charge. If this confirmatory test is reported to the department or school as negative no further action is required.
6. If the lab confirmatory test is positive the department chair or school director or their designee will receive a copy of the report. Student Health will then directly refer the student to Counseling Services for an evaluation and a treatment plan will be outlined. Implementation and follow through on the treatment plan are required, including signing all requested consent forms and releases. Failure to fully comply with the treatment plan will be reported to the student's department chair or school director. **Any student with a positive drug screen will be subject to a delay in clinical placement and face the potential for ultimate dismissal from the program.**
7. Upon receiving the results of the counseling evaluation and treatment plan, the department chair or school director will decide if a student may continue in the program. Students judged eligible to continue in the program will be required to submit to another drug test. This test must be negative or the student is subject to immediate dismissal from the program. Any student that has tested positive for illegal drugs may be subject to a random drug screen at any time during the remainder of their academic career at Arkansas State University's College of Health Sciences.
8. Any student dismissed as a result of this policy has a right to appeal. The appeal will follow the guidelines and procedures outlined by their respective department or school.

9. For additional information on the drug screening policy and how it is applied to your program of study please contact the faculty member in your department or school that coordinates field experiences.

Student Signature

Student Name – Printed

Date