

Immunization and Educational Requirements

Policy Information			
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Responsible University Administrator:	Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs	President Council Approved Date:	May 26, 2022

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To define immunization requirements for all students.

2. Policy

- 2.1. Baptist Health Sciences University (University) is committed to education and practices that contribute to preventing illness and maintenance of health. As a result, immunizations may be required for enrollment and participation in clinical experiences. The requirements below may be changed at any time based on community health guidelines.
- 2.2. Students majoring in Biomedical Sciences, Public Health, Health Administration, or Pre-Health Studies or any student who is not participating in clinical experiences shall provide proof of the following immunizations for initial matriculation and continued enrollment :
 - 2.2.1. Documentation of immunity for measles, mumps, rubella, and chicken pox (varicella).
 - 2.2.2. Documentation of current influenza immunization.
 - 2.2.3. Documentation of completed COVID-19 immunization series.
 - 2.2.4. Documentation of meningitis immunization for students living in campus housing under the age of 22.
 - 2.2.5. In the case of documented medical or religious reasons, an exemption may be requested.
- 2.3. Students in Nursing or Allied Health majors who are participating in clinical experiences shall provide proof of the following immunization requirements for initial matriculation and continued enrollment :
 - 2.3.1. Documentation of immunity for measles, mumps, rubella, and chicken pox (varicella).
 - 2.3.2. Documentation of immunity for tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and completion of Hepatitis B series, if no current immunity.
 - 2.3.3. Documentation of negative TB screening and current tuberculosis skin test at time of initial matriculation and annually thereafter.
 - 2.3.4. Documentation of negative urine drug screen prior to entrance into clinical coursework.
 - 2.3.5. Documentation of current influenza immunization.
 - 2.3.6. Documentation of completed COVID-19 immunization series.
 - 2.3.7. Students enrolled in clinical courses, must comply with all immunization requirements at the beginning of the term in which clinical courses will be taken.
 - 2.3.8. In the case of documented medical or religious reasons, an exemption may be requested.

2.4. Immunization exemption requests:

- 2.4.1. Students may request an exemption based on a documented medical condition or sincerely held religious beliefs. Exemptions must be approved prior to class start to meet the initial enrollment requirement.
- 2.4.2. Medical exemption requests will be reviewed and determined on a case-by-case basis upon review of a bona fide medical condition, medical contraindications, or temporary medical contraindications documented by a licensed health care provider.
- 2.4.3. Religious exemption requests based on the sincerely held religious beliefs the student has will be reviewed and determined on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.4.4. Students who receive an approved medical or religious exemption in writing will not be required to meet the immunization requirements; however, Baptist University reserves the right to implement additional safety requirements and infection control and prevention measures.
- 2.4.5. Students not receiving immunizations may affect the student's ability to be placed at clinical sites as clinical affiliates may impose additional restrictions, require additional documentation, or refuse placement of a non-immunized student. As a result, the student's ability to complete their academic program may be hindered.

2.5. Educational requirements prior to the start of clinical courses:

- 2.5.1. Orientation to the health care environment, including facility-specific and program-specific educational requirements, as applicable.
- 2.5.2. Professional licensing requirements established by the State of Tennessee and/or national accreditation/certification standards require all students to participate in a specified amount of clinical hours/experiences involving direct patient care. If students choose not to participate in the clinical experiences for any reason, including the COVID-19 pandemic, their progression may be delayed.
- 2.5.3. Students are aware of the risks associated with the clinical experience which include, but are not limited to, physical or psychological injury, pain, suffering, contagiousness, illness, temporary or permanent disability, economic or emotional loss, and/or death. By participating in the clinical experiences, students acknowledge they have been made aware of risks, known or unknown, associated with or attributable to their clinical experiences including, but not limited to, the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. None.

4. Procedure

4.1. For initial matriculation :

- 4.1.1. Documentation of completed immunizations and health records are due prior to class start for the first term of enrollment.
- 4.1.2. For students where Hepatitis B Vaccine series is required, it may be in process, but must be completed prior to beginning clinical courses. Failure to complete all other required immunizations and health records prior to the first day of classes will result in students being dropped from all courses.

4.2. For continued enrollment:

- 4.2.1. The University immunization monitoring system routinely monitors students' immunization status. The system sends emails to students at their Baptist University official email address to communicate when immunizations are about to expire and what is needed to remain current.
- 4.2.2. Communication will be sent to students to verify they have complied with the immunization policy prior to the term in which clinical courses will be taken.
- 4.2.3. Prior to registration, students must verify they comply with all immunization requirements. If any immunization requirements will expire during the next enrollment term, students will not be able to register for that term and a hold will be placed on the student's file until the student complies with all immunization requirements. An exception is recognized during fall trimesters and corresponding influenza season with students being required to complete influenza immunizations within recommended guidelines.
- 4.2.4.
- 4.3. Exemption requests:
 - 4.3.1. An exemption to the University's immunization requirements may be requested by completing the Immunization Exemption Form found in the Student MyCampus portal and providing all required documentation. The completed form and documentation should be submitted electronically to the Studentservices@baptistu.edu.
 - 4.3.2. Medical exemption requests require statement(s) from the student's health care provider certifying that the immunization required is contraindicated for a current health condition of the student.
 - 4.3.3. Religious exemption requests require a statement from the student that the reason for seeking an exemption is a sincerely held religious belief and how that belief conflicts with the University's immunization requirement.
 - 4.3.4. As part of the exemption request review process, the University may request additional documentation.
 - 4.3.5. Students will be notified in writing as quickly as possible regarding the status of the exemption request. Approved immunization exemptions will also be documented in the University's immunization monitoring system.

5. Related Information

- 5.1. None.