

Immunization and Clinical Educational Requirements

Policy Information			
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Policy Owner:	Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs	Council/Committee Recommendation:	Provost Council
Responsible University Administrator:	Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs	President Council Approved Date:	

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. All students 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) or immunizations.
 - 2.2.2. Documentation of meningitis immunization for students living in campus housing under the age of 22.
- 2.3. Students in Medicine, Nursing or Allied Health programs who are participating in clinical experiences shall provide proof of the following immunization requirements no later than the beginning of the term in which clinical courses will be taken :
 - 2.3.1. Documentation of immunity for measles, mumps, rubella, and chicken pox (varicella) or immunizations.
 - 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 during flu season, defined as October through March.
 - 2.3.6. Additional immunization requirements by selected clinical agencies may be necessary prior to clinical rotations.

2.4. Immunization exemption requests:

- 2.4.1. Students may request an exemption based on a documented medical condition or sincerely held religious beliefs. Students who are full-time distance learners and not attending courses on-campus nor participating in local clinical experiences may also request an exemption. 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 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 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.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. None.

4. Procedure

- 4.1. A private company approved by Baptist University collects and monitors all immunization records required by this policy. Students establish an account with this company directly with the cost paid by the student.
- 4.2. For initial matriculation :
 - 4.2.1. Documentation of completed immunizations and health records are due prior to class start for the first term of enrollment.
- 4.3. For continued enrollment:
 - 4.3.1. The University contracted 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.

- 4.3.2. 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.
- 4.3.3. Prior to registration for each term, 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 registration hold will be placed on the student’s file until the student complies with all immunization requirements.
- 4.4. Exemption requests:
 - 4.4.1. 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 Student.Life@BaptistU.edu.
 - 4.4.2. 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.
 - 4.4.3. 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.
 - 4.4.4. Remote learning exemption requests require a statement from the program chair certifying the student is a full-time distance learner and does not attend courses on-campus nor participate in clinical experiences locally.
 - 4.4.5. As part of the exemption request review process, the University may request additional documentation.
 - 4.4.6. 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. RULES OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNICABLE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISEASE SERVICES - CHAPTER 1200-14-01-29 Immunization
Against Certain Diseases Prior to School Attendance in Tennessee

6. Publications

Yes	Publication	Yes	Publication
	University Academic Catalog		University Website
	University Student Handbook		MyCampus
	University Faculty and Staff Handbook		Other University Publication: