

**TULSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**STUDENT DRUG SCREENING PROCEDURES**

**I. SCOPE & PURPOSE**

Drug screening will be performed on all students of the TCC School of Health Sciences prior to participation in the initial Clinical Rotation. This screening fulfills the requirements outlined in contractual agreements between TCC and clinical affiliates and determines a student's eligibility for continuing program enrollment.

**II. RATIONALE**

Drug screening of all School of Health Sciences students prior to their initial clinical rotation will be conducted in order to:

- i. Perform due diligence and competency assessment of students for public welfare
- ii. Ensure health and safety of patients and students in a clinical setting
- iii. Support a drug free workplace
- iv. Meet accreditation standards as interpreted by hospital affiliates regarding drug screening
- v. Meet obligations outlined in contractual agreements between TCC and clinical affiliates

**III. DRUG SCREENING PROCEDURE**

**a. Persons to be Tested**

- i. Drug Screening will be required of ALL School of Health Sciences students.
- ii. Drug Screening will occur prior to the student's initial participation in the first clinical rotation.
- iii. In addition to the initial drug screening, further testing may be required of a student "for cause" or reasonable suspicion and may be either announced or unannounced.
- iv. On the day of the test, the Collector shall ensure that the student is positively identified as the individual selected for testing. This identification will be done through the presentation of a photo identification document (driver's license with picture or TCC student identification with picture). If the student's identity cannot be established, the Collector shall not proceed with the collection until such identification can be made.
- v. Students may be excused from announced or unannounced drug testing only under the most extreme circumstances (e.g., illness, family emergency). The student will be required to provide written verification for such absences.
- vi. Approval of a verifiable absence is the responsibility of the Faculty Department Chair/Program Director.

**b. Consent for Testing**

- i. All School of Health Sciences students will sign and submit a written consent/release form for drug testing for the purpose of collecting and analyzing the required urine specimen(s) as well as acknowledging that the student is responsible for the cost of all drug testing. The consent includes release of drug testing results and release of liability.
- ii. If the student is under eighteen (18) years of age, the student's parent or legal guardian must sign the drug testing consent form in addition to the student.
- iii. The signed consent/release form must be returned to the School of Health Sciences office and will be retained and maintained in a secure location within the School of Health Sciences office.



**f. Reasonable Suspicion Screening**

- i. Students may also be required to submit to reasonable suspicion screening while participating in clinical experiences as stipulated in the drug screening policies of TCC and the contractual agreements with clinical affiliates.
- ii. Drug testing may be performed for “just cause” when reasonable suspicion exists and may include but not be limited to the following:
  - a. Observable phenomenon, such as direct observation of drug or alcohol use, or physical symptoms such as slurred speech, unsteady gait, confusion or other manifestations of being under the influence of drugs
  - b. Presence of an odor of alcohol or illegal substance; abnormal conduct or erratic behavior while in the clinical facility, absenteeism, tardiness or deterioration of performance
  - c. Evidence of tampering with a drug test
  - d. Evidence of falsification of information
  - e. Suspected theft of medications including controlled substances while at the clinical facility
  - f. Information that the individual has caused or contributed to an incident in the clinical facility
  - g. Evidence of involvement in the use, possession, sale, solicitation or transfer of illegal or illicit drugs while enrolled in any School of Health Sciences Program.
- iii. If the clinical instructor or clinical site supervisor perceives the odor of alcohol or observes behaviors such as, but not limited to, slurred speech, unsteady gait, confusion, abnormal conduct, erratic behavior, deterioration of performance or accident while in the clinical facility, and these behaviors cause the faculty or clinical instructor to suspect the student is impaired by alcohol or drugs, the following steps are taken:
  - a. The instructor will remove the student from the patient care or assigned clinical work area and notify the clinical agency supervising personnel.
  - b. Upon the student’s oral consent, the instructor will contact a family member, friend, or transportation service and arrange for student transport to a designated laboratory service facility contracted by the current TCC drug screening vendor. “For cause” testing must occur on the same day as the observed behavior. The student will pay for all costs associated with the for-cause drug-screening test, including transportation costs to the testing facility.
  - c. If the results of the test(s) are negative for drugs, alcohol, illegal substances, or non-prescribed legal substances, the student shall meet with the Dean or their designee within 24 hours of the test results, or as soon as is reasonably possible, to discuss the circumstances surrounding the impaired clinical behavior.
  - d. Based on the information provided and any further medical evaluations warranted, the Dean or their designee will make a decision regarding the student’s return to the clinical setting. If the indicator was the odor of alcohol, the student will be mandated to discontinue the use of whatever substance may have caused the alcohol-like odor before being allowed to return to the clinical setting.
  - e. If the results of the test(s) are confirmed as positive for alcohol, illegal substances, or non-prescribed legal substances, the Dean will withdraw the student from all didactic and clinical courses and will dismiss the student from the program. If eligible for readmission, the student may apply for re-admission to the Program following successful completion of recommended counseling or rehabilitation as prescribed by a

licensed drug/alcohol counselor. (Please refer to the applicable Program's Student Handbook.)

#### **IV. FAILURE TO APPEAR AND COMPLETE DRUG TESTING**

- a. If a student fails to appear at the scheduled time for drug testing, the student will be given a second chance to appear and take the test.
- b. If the student fails to appear for drug testing within the specified time frame or schedule a second time, it may result in dismissal from the School of Health Sciences Programs. The Faculty Department Chair/Program Director shall be notified of any failure to appear.

#### **V. SCREENING RESULTS**

##### **a. All Results**

- i. The vendor will provide written notification to the Dean listing all student results from collected drug tests.
- ii. Test results will not be released to any individual who has not been authorized to receive such results.
- iii. Notification of drug screening results can only be delivered in a manner that ensures the integrity, accuracy, and confidentiality of the information. Students shall not be allowed to hand deliver any test results to college representatives.
- iv. Tulsa Community College may refuse to accept any test result that does not meet the requirements of the procedures and guidelines.
- v. The Dean, or designee, will inform the student of any positive drug screening results within seven (7) days of receiving the results.
- vi. If a student challenges a result, only the original sample can be retested. The student must request an order for retest of the sample through the MRO within 72 hours of the confirmed positive result. All positive samples are retained for one year in a frozen state. The student is responsible for the cost of this re-test.

##### **b. Positive Results**

- i. The testing laboratory will confirm all specimens identified as non-negative/positive on the initial test. The Medical Review Officer (MRO) will review any positive test results.
- ii. The MRO shall be a licensed physician with knowledge of substance abuse disorders, and shall review and interpret positive test results. The MRO shall also:
  - a. Examine alternate medical explanations for any positive test results. This action may include conducting a medical interview and review of the student's medical history or review of other relevant biomedical factors.
  - b. Review all medical records made available by the tested student when a confirmed positive test could have resulted from legally prescribed medication. Prior to making a final decision on the results of the confirmed positive test, the MRO shall give the student an opportunity to discuss the results of the test.
- iii. If, after review by the MRO, there is a valid medical explanation for the screening results, the vendor will notify TCC of a clear test. If after review by the MRO, there is no valid medical explanation for the positive test, then the test results will stand.
- iv. Any appeal right of a positive drug test rests solely between the student, the Medical Officer and the vendor.

- v. The vendor will provide written notification with a list of those students with a positive drug test to the Dean.
- vi. If the results of the test(s) are confirmed as positive for alcohol, illegal substances, or non-prescribed legal substances, the Dean will withdraw the student from all didactic and clinical courses. If eligible for readmission, the student may apply for re-admission to the Program following successful completion of recommended counseling or rehabilitation as prescribed by a licensed drug and alcohol counselor. (Please refer to the specific Program's Student Handbook)

## **VI. READMISSION GUIDELINES RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- a. Students seeking readmission to the School of Health Sciences Program after being dismissed for reasons related to substance abuse should:
  - i. Submit a letter requesting readmission to the Program.
  - ii. Submit documentation from a therapist specializing in addiction behaviors indicating status of abuse, addiction, recovery, or rehabilitation related to the substance abuse.
  - iii. Include documentation of compliance with a treatment program, if medically indicated by the therapist specializing in addiction behaviors, including a statement that the student will be able to function effectively and provide safe and therapeutic care for clients in a clinical setting.
  - iv. Repeat drug screen for alcohol and drugs with a TCC approved vendor immediately prior to readmission.
- b. If the student tests positive for drugs on the re-admission testing, the student will be denied re-admission.
- c. If a student is readmitted to the School of Health Sciences Program and tests positive again on a drug test, or the MRO deems them unsafe for the clinical setting, the student will receive permanent dismissal from the School of Health Sciences Program. A grade of "F" will be recorded if the student does not officially withdraw.

## **VII. RECORD STORAGE**

- a. Reports and related records (both electronic and paper media) will be retained and maintained in a secure location within the School of Health Sciences office for the timeframe listed below unless otherwise required by law.
- b. Negative test results must be kept on file for one year in the School of Health Sciences office after the student's last date of attendance at the college. Positive results must be maintained on file for five years in the School of Health Sciences office.
- c. Drug screening reports and all records pertaining to the results will be 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>.