



SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE NURSING/ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION

Standards and Procedures for Background Checks, Drug/Alcohol Screening, Immunization Requirements, TB Screening, CPR, Healthcare Insurance, and Online Hospital Orientation

South Texas College's Nursing and Allied Health (NAH) students including dual enrollment and continuing education, are **required** to have background checks, drug/alcohol screens, immunizations, TB screening, CPR, healthcare or accidental insurance and complete online clinical/hospital orientation prior to registration in any NAH program course. Upon completion of these requirements, the student is cleared for clinical by the Clinical Affairs Specialist (CAS). To continue clinical compliance, students must obtain clinical clearance each semester prior to registering for the course.

NOTE: NAH will utilize COMPLIO Tracking System to monitor compliance with this standard.

Background Checks

Background checks will be conducted before admission to all NAH programs. The NAH Clinical Affairs Specialist (CAS) must receive verification of satisfactory results by the designated program deadline. Background checks will be honored for the duration of the student's continuous enrollment in an NAH program. Students are responsible for updating the CAS with any changes which may affect their current background status. Failure to comply with this standard will result in dismissal from the NAH program.

Types of Background Checks

- 1. Vocational Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs utilize:**
 - FAST PASS obtained through Texas Board of Nursing
 - Student must first meet with CAS to have their information added to a VN or ADN roster that is submitted to the Board of Nursing prior to the student scheduling a digital fingerprinting appointment
 - After a 3 to 4 week waiting period, the student will schedule an appointment for digital fingerprinting by logging on to www.identogo.com or by calling 1-888-467-2080
 - The Texas Board of Nursing will process the criminal background check
 - Student will receive one of the following from the Texas Board of Nursing:
 - Blue Card
 - Operations Outcome Letter
 - Enforcement Outcome Letter
 - Eligibility Order
 - Student will not be allowed to enroll in nursing classes or clinical/practicum courses without the clearance from the Texas Board of Nursing www.bon.state.tx.us
- 2. All other NAH programs EXCEPT those offered through Dual Enrollment utilize:**
 - **COMPLIO Background Checks** – Refer to Complio Student User Guide for instructions.
- 3. Dual Enrollment NAH Programs will utilize:**
 - Texas Department of Public Safety Background Checks

Outcomes

- **Programs with a state/national credentialing or licensing authority:**

Any issues regarding criminal background checks must be resolved by the student prior to acceptance/enrollment to NAH programs. Any issues on the results of the criminal background should be disputed and/or resolved by the individual boards of examination.

An individual review can take from 3 months to 2 years to complete. All boards charge a review fee. Only the licensing or certification boards may rule on a student's eligibility for licensure or certification.

NOTE: Regardless of clearance for testing/ license eligibility, clinical and practicum affiliation sites reserve the right to refuse students with criminal histories.

- **Programs without a state/national credentialing or licensing authority:**

NAH utilizes a Clinical Issues Committee to review and provide direction regarding concerns related to criminal background histories. The CAS is responsible for convening the committee meetings as needed. The Clinical Issues Committee utilizes the guidelines set forth by the National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT).

NOTE: Clearance to enroll in an NAH program following this review process in no way ensures or guarantees allowance to test by individual licensing/credentialing body.

Drug/Alcohol Screening Requirements

Students must submit to a required 10-panel drug plus alcohol urinalysis to screen for the presence of drug and alcohol. Screening results must be negative in order to enroll in any NAH program.

“For Cause” Screenings

NAH programs and/or clinical affiliates reserve the right to remove a student from the facility for suspicion of substance use or abuse (including alcohol). In such instances, NAH programs and/or clinical affiliate will provide written documentation of the student's behavior which led to the removal. The student will be required to immediately submit to a “for cause” drug/alcohol screen at a vendor site identified by the college. All reasonable attempts will be made to contact the student's emergency designee to provide transportation from the clinical site. If the emergency designee cannot be reached the student will be transported from the clinic site via commercial taxi at their own expense.

In such instances, a referral will be made to the Conflict Resolution Center for action in accordance with the College Student Code of Conduct guidelines. Refusal to comply with this standard will result in immediate expulsion from the NAH program.

Type of Test

Drug and Alcohol Screen

Drug and alcohol screenings are performed at a designated vendor's location with a secure restroom. Complete supervision is required to ensure there is no tampering of the urine sample.

Outcomes

Any student with a positive drug/alcohol screen may be denied enrollment and participation in a NAH program for a minimum of 12 months. After the 12 month period, the student is eligible for a one-time reapplication to the program. Students will be subject to prescreening requirements at the time of reapplication. If results are positive the second time, the student will be banned from applying or participating in any NAH program at South Texas College.

State Mandated Immunization Requirements

According to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, Rule §97.64, the following immunizations are required of all NAH students prior to enrolling in a Nursing and Allied Health clinical program which involves direct patient care.

This standard applies to the following STC programs with a credit or non-credit clinical/practicum course:

Associate Degree Nursing
Emergency Medical Technology
Health and Medical Administrative Services
Medical Assistant Technology
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Patient Care Assistant
Pharmacy Technology
Physical Therapist Assistant
Radiologic Technology
Respiratory Therapy
Vocational Nursing
Phlebotomy

Procedure:

Students must submit an immunization record, letter of immunity, or serological report for all the following required immunizations to the Clinical Affairs Specialist by required program deadline.

- Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) date of immunizations or titer report of reactive immunity
- Tetanus-diphtheria pertussis toxoid (Tdap); expires 10 years from date of administration
- Complete series of Hepatitis B (3 vaccine series)
- Varicella (chicken pox) proof of immunity, vaccine or signed statement from physician or parent stating that student had the disease
- Meningococcal vaccination within the last 5 years (under the age of 30)
- Influenza (August – April) Lot number and expiration date of vaccine is required

Note: Students are responsible for maintaining updated clinical requirements throughout the duration of their clinical/practicum courses.

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

- Students are required to obtain a PPD (TB) screening within 3 months of Clinical Clearance; results of which must be negative
- PPD (TB) expires annually from the date of administration
- Students with positive TB results must provide a negative chest x-ray report/T-SPOT/ QuantiFERON TB Gold Test; expires 2 years from date of test

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certified by the American Heart Association

- Students are required to obtain CPR certification by the American Heart Association for Healthcare Provider prior to attending a clinical/practicum course
- Students will not be allowed to participate in a clinical/practicum course without current CPR certification

Health Insurance or Accidental Insurance

- Students are required to show proof of current health insurance coverage. Students who do not have health insurance coverage must purchase student accidental insurance for the duration of all clinical/practicum courses.
- Students will not be allowed to begin any clinical/practicum courses without proof of health or accidental insurance.

Self-Enrolled Clinical/Practicum Hospital Orientation

- Students are required to complete the Online Clinical/Practicum Hospital Orientation. Instructions to complete this requirement are found in the Clinical Clearance Packet or the [STC-NAH Website](#).
- Once completed, the student must provide the following to the CAS:
 - Copy of the Certificate with student name and STC ID number
 - Copy of Confidentiality Statement; signed and dated
 - Copy of grades from Post Test 1, 2, and 3 with a grades of 80 or better.
- Clinical/Practicum Hospital Orientation are good for one calendar year.
- Any student who returns after a stop-out from the program must retake and complete the online orientation.

Allocation of Cost

NAH Students are responsible for all costs associated with complying with criminal background checks and other clinical/practicum requirements.