

**EL CENTRO COLLEGE
CENTER FOR ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ADMISSIONS**

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

All students enrolled in Health Occupations programs which involve clinical rotations or directed study activities in a health care facility are required to undergo a criminal background check and drug screening prior to beginning their clinical experience. Students are responsible for all charges incurred (approximately \$84.00) for these screenings. **Students accepted to a health occupations program will receive specific instructions regarding this procedure which is only conducted after a student has been accepted to their respective program.**

Results of these screenings are forwarded to the El Centro College Health/Legal Studies Division administrators for review and verification that a student is eligible to attend clinical rotation. All background check and drug screening results become the property of the Health and Legal Studies Division and will not be released to the student or any other third party.

A clinical agency reserves the right to remove a student from the facility for suspicion of substance use or abuse including alcohol. The clinical agency reserves the right to request that a student submit to a repeat drug screening at the student's expense on the same day that the student is removed from the clinical facility. Failure to comply will result in the student's immediate expulsion from the clinical facility. Furthermore, regardless of testing or testing results, a clinical agency reserves the right to expel a student from their facility.

NOTE: Should a student who has been accepted to a Health Occupations program be prohibited from attending a clinical rotation experience due to findings of a criminal background check and/or drug screening, the student may be dismissed from the Health Occupations program.

Background checks and drug screens will be honored by all health care facilities for the duration of a student's enrollment in the clinical program if the participating student has not had a break in the enrollment at the college. A break in enrollment is defined as non-attendance of one full (fall or spring) semester or more.

DRUG SCREEN:

The drug screen follows National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) guidelines and screens for ten (10) substances as designated in the Substance Abuse Panel 10 ("SAP 10").

These substances are:

Amphetamines	Methadone
Barbiturates	Opiates
Benzodiazepines	Oxycodone/Oxymorphone
Cocaine Metabolites	Phencyclidine
Marijuana Metabolites	Propoxyphene

SAP 10 test results which fall outside of any of the acceptable ranges are considered positive (non-negative) test results and are automatically sent for a separate confirmatory test by a Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) method. If these results remain positive, the test results are sent to a Medical Review Officer (“MRO”) who will then contact the student to determine if there is a valid prescription for the drug in question. If a valid prescription exists and is verified, the test result will be deemed to the negative and acceptable. This process will result in an additional cost to the student.

NOTE: In accordance with HIPAA Privacy guidelines, the student is not allowed to discuss any medications with anyone other than the MRO and only if contacted by the MRO during this follow-up process.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK:

The criminal background check reviews a person’s criminal history seven (7) years previous to the data of program application. The check will include all cities and counties of the person’s residency during that time period. The following histories will disqualify an individual from consideration for a clinical rotation:

- Felony convictions;
- Misdemeanor convictions or felony deferred adjudications involving crimes against persons (physical or sexual abuse);
- Misdemeanor convictions related to moral turpitude (prostitution, public lewdness/exposure, theft under \$1,500, computer crimes of fraud, etc.);
- Felony deferred adjudications for the sale, possession, distribution, or transfer of narcotics or controlled substances;
- Registered sex offenders.
- OIG, GSA and Medicaid Sanctions.
- Terrorist Suspect List
- Pending charges and warrants for arrest.

EXCEPTIONS:

If a licensing/registry body (i.e. Texas Board of Nursing) approves the individual to take the licensing/credentialing exam, the individual may participate in the clinical rotation.

The College may request an exception from the first clinical agency for a student with a felony deferred adjudication and no alternate recourse through a licensing/registry authority is necessary. Following approval from the first clinical agency, the student may progress as stated above.

For more information regarding the criminal background check and drug testing requirements, please contact the following:

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