

Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures Supporting Document	
Section: Student Policies	Responsible Vice President: Executive Vice President & Provost
Subject: Student Services and Activities	Responsible Entity: School of Health Professions

I. Title

School of Health Professions Drug Testing Policy

II. Policy

UTMB is committed to providing a safe workplace for all employees, students, and patients. Accordingly, the UTMB School of Health Professions (SHP) requires that all health professions students have a negative urine drug screen. All students will be required to provide a drug screening prior to matriculation and at other times as deemed necessary by the School or their clinical site. All screenings are completed at the student’s expense.

Substances tested for may include amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), benzodiazepines, barbiturates, methadone, methaqualone, propoxyphene, and ethanol urine; and other substances as may be required by a health care facility at which the student is assigned for a clinical rotation. Drug screen results will not be accepted from a non-UTMB approved screening vendor.

A student’s drug screen is not considered positive until a MRO has determined that the results are not due to legally prescribed and appropriately taken prescription medications.

III. Background

Patient safety priorities have led many clinical facilities to require urine drug testing of health care providers. In addition to UTMB’s belief that this is an appropriate patient safety decision, drug testing is now a prerequisite for an increasing number of facilities to accept student assignments. UTMB already requires drug testing of all prospective employees and incoming students.

This policy represents the SHP’s commitment to balance the needs of students while protecting the interests of patients. It outlines the procedures and confidentiality safeguards that are integral to the drug screen process. To this end, the SHP Associate Dean of Academic & Student Affairs, the SHP Directors of Clinical Education, SHP Chairs’ Council, and SHP Faculty Assembly, have participated in the development of these policies and procedures.

IV. Procedures

- A. The Security Clearance and Drug Screening must be completed within a timeline indicated by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs. This information can be found on the ASA website at: <https://shp.utmb.edu/ASA/newstudents/>
- B. A negative (“clear”) test is required for continuation in the curriculum.
- C. Retesting may be required if a facility requires a more recent test result than is provided by SHP policy.
- D. SHP has a UTMB approved vendor to conduct drug testing for new students.

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- E.** Students will receive instructions on how to initiate the screening process.
- F.** Some clinical sites may require additional testing at their facility or with their approved vendor.
- G.** At the time of UTMB registration, the UTMB approved vendor will provide students a list of testing sites close to their preferred zip code. For matriculated students, drug testing may be required in accordance with clinical site requirements.
- H.** Prior to collection, students have the opportunity, but are not required, to disclose the use of prescription medications they believe may result in a positive test.
- I.** If a student fails to participate or fails to provide a negative drug screening he/she will not be allowed to begin or continue in the curriculum.
- J.** The student may make a request to the MRO to repeat a failed drug test.
- K.** The decision of the MRO regarding test results and reporting is final and not subject to appeal.
- L.** *Non-matriculated Students:* A non-matriculated student with a positive drug test will be reported to the Associate Dean of Academic & Student Affairs (ADASA) and may have his or her offer of admission rescinded.
- M.** *Matriculated Students:* A matriculated student with a positive drug test will be reported to the Associate Dean of Academic & Student Affairs for intervention and/or possible disciplinary action as authorized by the University of Texas System Regent's Rules and Regulations. Additionally, the ADASA may send the results to the Student Conduct and Discipline Officer to be processed under IHOP 07.01.03 – Student Conduct and Discipline.

V. Testing Process

- A.** Process information is available on the approved vendor website accessed through Enrollment Services. Students must be in compliance with all approved vendor policies and procedures.
- B.** Office of Academic and Student Affairs and Directors of Clinical Education will have access to the vendor's secure database portal to view the results of the drug screening throughout the time the student is enrolled at UTMB.
- C.** After graduation, students may be asked to provide access to their approved vendor portal and their record.
- D.** A student may not begin or continue coursework (clinical or non-clinical) until a negative ("clear") test report is received and the student has satisfactorily fulfilled requirements set forth in this policy.

VI. Definitions

Medical Review Officer (MRO): A licensed physician responsible for receiving laboratory results, who has knowledge of substance abuse disorders and has appropriate medical training to interpret and evaluate an individual's positive test result together with that individual's medical history and any other relevant biomedical information.

VII. Related UTMB Policies and Procedures

<https://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules.htm>,
https://www.utmb.edu/policies_and_procedures/IHOP/Student/IHOP%20-%202007.01.03%20-%20Student%20Conduct%20and%20Discipline.pdf

VIII. Dates Approved or Amended

<i>Originated: 9/27/17</i>	
<i>Reviewed with Changes</i>	<i>Reviewed without Changes</i>

VIV. Contact Information

School of Health Professions
The Office of Academic & Student Affairs
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