

Section 7 Student Policies Subject 7.1 Student Policies	08/05/10 -Originated 10/1/2013 Reviewed with Changes 1/10/2017 Reviewed with changes
Supporting Document: School of Nursing (SON) Student Drug Testing	- -Effective School of Nursing - D. Pearrow

School of Nursing (SON) Student Drug Testing

Definitions	<p><i>Medical Review Officer (MRO):</i> 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.</p>
Policy	<p>UTMB is committed to providing a safe workplace for all employees, students, and patients. Accordingly, the UTMB School of Nursing (SON) requires that all nursing students have a negative urine drug screen.</p> <p>Substances tested for include amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), benzodiazepines, barbiturates, methadone, methqualone, 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 non-UTMB approved collection and testing sites.</p> <p>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 and the student has been offered the opportunity to have their original sample retested at the student’s expense.</p>
Background	<p>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.</p> <p>This policy represents the SON’s attempt 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 SON Executive Council, SON Faculty Assembly, Curriculum Committee, Student Health, Employee Health, Legal Affairs, and Student Government have participated in the development of these policies and procedures.</p>
Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Security Clearance and Drug Screening may not be completed more than four weeks prior to orientation or per timeline indicated by the Office of Admissions and

Procedures, continued

Student Affairs. Dates are sent to new students in the New Student Guide. Orientation dates are also located in the Academic Calendar on the SON website (<http://nursing.utmb.edu/>).

A negative (“clear”) test is required for continuation in the curriculum. Retesting may be required if a facility requires a more recent test result than is provided for by SON policy. The SON has designated PreCheck as a vendor to conduct drug testing for all new students. Registration is available at: www.mystudentcheck.com

Students must submit their personal information, method of payment and enter their zip code to locate the nearest testing facility.

2. The SON does not accept drug screens from non-PreCheck labs without prior approval from the SON.
3. At the time of registration students will be able to select a testing site close to their preferred zip code. Additional collection sites may be authorized (for example, a specific health care facility may require testing at their facility).
4. Prospective students who do not pass these requirements will not be matriculated in the SON. Students must take their lab confirmation form (electronic chain of custody) and picture ID to the collection site at the time of testing. 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.
 - a. Students will provide a urine sample inside the collection facility at the direction of facility staff with a container provided to them. The collection is unobserved, but to be valid it must meet specimen specifications for color, temperature, and concentration. A student has a three-hour window to produce a valid specimen. If a student is unable to produce a valid specimen within the specified three hour time-frame (such as from shy bladder, or due to an excessively dilute, off-temperature, or contaminated sample), the student will be allowed one additional retesting under direct supervision.
 - b. If a student is unable to produce a valid specimen on a second attempt, this will result in a “Positive/Not Clear” report. Such students are not allowed to begin or continue in the curriculum and will be subject to the same consequences as any “Positive/Not Clear” result.
6. If a student does not keep a collection appointment or declines to participate, he/she will not be allowed to begin or continue in the curriculum. This will result in a report to the Asst. Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs.

Testing Process

Samples will be collected and properly labeled at the collection site.

Specimens will be shipped to a testing facility not affiliated with UTMB.

**Testing
Process,
continued**

Standard cut-offs established by the U.S. Department of Transportation will be used to define positive results.

A “Negative/Clear” result is reported if the sample is negative for the screened substances, or is positive for one or more screened substances but a MRO not affiliated with UTMB contacts the student and determines that a legitimately prescribed medication explains the presence and level of a drug detected. A “Positive/Not Clear” result is reported if the sample is positive for one or more screened substances, and a MRO not affiliated with UTMB contacts the student and determines that a valid explanation of the result does not exist.

Before making this report, the MRO will offer the student the opportunity to have the original sample retested by an independent laboratory at the student’s expense.

The SON will review test reports on a regular basis and will maintain the records as part of a secure database. Drug test results will remain separate from the academic record. Positive results will include the name of the drug but will not include quantitative data.

The decision of the MRO regarding test results and reporting is final and not subject to appeal.

Positive test results will be reported to the Asst. Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs for intervention. A positive test result may also lead to disciplinary action pursuant to IHOP Policy [7.1.3 Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

**Testing
Process,
continued**

A students 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.

References

IHOP 7.1.3 Student Conduct and Discipline
Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Student Conduct and Discipline