

STUDENT DRUG SCREENING

Policy:

To ensure public safety and meet requirements of our clinical education partners, all students accepted into the Heartland Community College (HCC) Health Sciences (HS) selective admission programs (Medical Assistant, Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiography) will be required to undergo a urine drug screening prior to entry and during the program if drug or alcohol use is suspected. A negative ("clear") test is required for admission into the HCC HS selective admission programs. Enrolled students who test positive are subject to disciplinary action including dismissal from the programs.

The drug screening must take place within a sixty-day window prior to the beginning of a student's coursework in the HS selective admission program and will be conducted by a vendor selected by Heartland Community College. Students who tamper in any way with the testing process will not be allowed to enter the program. All costs are the responsibility of the student.

Procedure:

1. Students accepted into the HS selective admission programs will be issued written instructions on how to complete the drug screening including the acceptable time frame. Students may not use previously-conducted drug screenings on file at other agencies to satisfy this requirement.
2. If drug or alcohol use is suspected as a cause of unsafe or erratic behavior in students while enrolled in the program, a urine drug screen will be required at the student's expense.
3. Students who fail to cooperate appropriately with regard to the process (i.e. refuse to release information, omit or provide false or misleading information, or fail to complete the drug screening within the specified time frame) will not be allowed to enter or may be dismissed from the program.
4. HCC will choose the drug screening vendor, and results will be made available to the Director/Program Coordinator of the program.

Dealing with Positive Results

5. If a report indicates any positive drug screening results, the vendor will typically contact the student to investigate.
6. Once the vendor has completed its investigation, results will be sent to the Director/Program Coordinator who will then notify the Dean of HS.
7. The Dean of HS will contact the prospective student informing him/her of the findings and request a written explanation.
8. If the student feels the report findings to be mistaken, the Dean of HS will verify the vendor has completed an investigation into the individual's case to determine the accuracy of the information.

9. If the results of the drug screen remain positive after further investigation and/or the student responds that a positive drug screening is accurate, the student will not be allowed to enter the program. If any subsequent drug screening returns positive results after admission to the program, the student will be dismissed from the program.
10. The Dean of HS will notify the student in writing within 3 business days of receiving conclusive positive results that he/she will be immediately dismissed from the program.
11. The student may appeal the dismissal decision by following the Student Appeals Procedure as outlined in the Heartland Community College Catalog and Student Handbook.
12. The drug screening report and any written correspondence will be retained in a secure file in the program Director/Program Coordinator's office.