

Student Health Screening and Immunization Policy

(Accreditation Standard A3.07a; A3.07b)

Trevecca Nazarene University (TNU) Physician Assistant (PA) Program has established the following policy on required immunization and health screening of students based on current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for health professionals^[1] and state-specific mandates. Our policy is also informed by common requirements of third-party clinical sites utilized by the Program for supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs) and/or experiential learning activities.

All PA students must remain compliant with timely submission and maintenance of the immunization, health screening, and CastleBranch requirements shown in the table below. At any time during the program, a student may be asked to repeat one of the CastleBranch requirements, submit according to an accelerated timeline, or complete an additional requirement for an assigned clinical experience.^[2] Each student is responsible, including financially, for completing all required items for the program and clinical placements prior to the respective deadlines^[3].

Students will sign a written release which allows the Program to maintain these documents in CastleBranch and to send them to clinical sites and preceptors as required, in compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.19 and in accordance with the program's file policies. Student health records^[4] are considered confidential and will not be accessible to or reviewed by program, principal or instructional faculty, or staff except for immunization and screening results.

Required Immunizations/Vaccinations, Health Screenings, and CastleBranch Documents	
Item	Program Requirements / Student Instructions
Hepatitis B*	1. 3-dose vaccination series AND 2. Positive antibody (anti-HBs) serologic titer
Influenza (Flu)* – Annual Requirement	1 dose of influenza vaccine annually between September 1 – September 15. (<i>Do not upload your initial submission until Didactic Fall Semester.</i>)
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)*	1. 2 doses of MMR vaccine OR 2. 3-component positive antibody titer
Varicella (Chickenpox)*	1. 2-dose vaccine series OR 2. Positive antibody titer
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)*	Tdap booster administered within the 10 years prior to the student's anticipated program graduation date.
COVID-19*	1. COVID-19 vaccine primary series (submitted as one upload) AND 2. COVID-19 booster: ^[5] deadline to upload booster is September 1 of Didactic Fall Semester.
Tuberculosis (TB)* – Annual Requirement	Two-step TB skin test (TST) series annually

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-step series: 2 separate negative skin tests completed 7-21 days apart. (<i>Upload results only after both tests are completed.</i>) If your test is positive, medical evaluation including Chest X-Ray (CXR) is required to rule out TB disease and to determine if treatment is needed. (see <i>Document Submission Requirements</i> below).
Physical Exam* – Annual Requirement	Utilize the downloadable Physical Exam form from CastleBranch, with student's full name and provider signature and date clearly indicated.
Background Check* – Annual Requirement	Ordered through CastleBranch.
Drug Screen* – Annual Requirement	Must utilize the CastleBranch chain-of-custody form and a LabCorp facility.
Current Health Insurance Documentation*	Image(s) of both the front and back of health insurance card are required. Must be kept up-to-date for duration of program.
Didactic Year Handbook – Signature Form*	Read the handbook, then sign and upload the Handbook Signature form (located in the back of the Handbook).
Trevecca Nazarene University Physician Assistant Program Disclosure of Student and Academic Information & FERPA Policy*	Read the policy, then complete and submit the appropriate downloadable form(s).
BLS, ACLS, & PALS Certifications	Training is completed during the Didactic Phase, at which time proof of completion certificates or cards are to be uploaded. (<i>Do not upload any prior certificates or cards.</i>)

Document Submission Requirements

Item	Admissible Documentation Must Clearly Include the Following:
Immunizations	<p>Health care provider documentation that includes student name, immunization name, and administration date(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For influenza, must also include lot/batch number, site of administration, and name of administering healthcare provider. For COVID-19 primary series and booster, must also include the manufacturer, lot/batch number, and date(s) of vaccination(s).
Antibody titers (serologic evidence of immunity)	Lab report (qualitative or quantitative titer) that includes student name, test name, test results, and date that the test was performed.
TB screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TST: Health care provider documentation that includes student name, test name, administration date, administration site, date interpreted (48-72 hours from administration), and test results (given in millimeters if results are positive). Medical evaluation & CXR (if positive TST): Documentation of medical provider clearance on official letterhead, including the provider name/signature, the date of the CXR, and documentation that the CXR was negative for TB. (<i>Do not upload CXR images, as these are considered</i>

	<i>protected health information and should not be viewable by program faculty/staff.)</i>
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Items noted with an asterisk (*) above require initial CastleBranch submissions that are mandatory for matriculation. Matriculating students who have CastleBranch deficiencies will not be permitted to attend class until all Castle Branch deficiencies are resolved or a plan for resolution has been approved by the Promotions, Retention, and Disciplinary (PRD) Committee. Any absences incurred as a result of violation(s) of this policy will count towards a student's unexcused absences in accordance with the Program's Attendance Policy. Remaining compliant with all requirements of CastleBranch is mandatory. Failure to remain compliant with any CastleBranch requirement will result in a meeting with the PRD Committee. The PRD committee will determine a corrective course of action which could include, but is not limited to, the student being placed on Professional Probation or possible dismissal from the PA Program.

Vaccine Exemptions: Exemption requests for required vaccinations, such as in the case of a known contraindication, may be considered by the University. In these cases, all of the following must be completed prior to the student's matriculation into the PA program, in accordance with the deadlines provided for the student's cohort:

1. The student must provide the required documentation to the Trevecca Student Clinic in sufficient time to allow the University to review and consider the request. For instructions and required forms, please contact Rebekah Hutchison at the Trevecca Student Clinic via email (clinic@trevecca.edu) and/or phone (615-248-1261).
2. If the request is approved by the University, the student must then upload the appropriate *University Vaccine Exemption Approval Form* and a signed *PA Program Vaccine Deferral Waiver* as one combined file^[6] to CastleBranch in place of the respective vaccination record. The *Vaccine Deferral Waiver* will be available on the matriculating student SharePoint.

Exemption Disclaimer: Even if a vaccine exemption is granted by the University, the Program cannot guarantee any supervised clinical practice experience placements due to requirements mandated by affiliated clinical sites. Students must agree to take responsibility for all risks as outlined in the program's *Vaccine Deferral Waiver*.

Questions: For those with questions regarding the Program's immunization and health screening requirements, please contact the Clinical Director by email at jmgerber@trevecca.edu.

^[1] The CDC recommendations for health professionals on which this policy is based include those regarding vaccinations (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>) and Tuberculosis (TB) (<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>).

^[2] For international elective rotations, there may also be additional requirements based on current CDC guidance for travel (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>), clinical site requirements, and applicable country requirements for entry and exit.

^[3] Additional information about requirements and deadlines will be disclosed to students via our *CastleBranch Requirement Letter* (for matriculating students), Castle Branch emails, the Didactic/Clinical Student Handbooks, and other communications from the Program as applicable.

^[4] The ARC-PA does not consider needle stick/sharp reports, results of drug screening, or criminal background checks, a part of the health record (ARC-PA 5th Standards Manual).

^[5] Refer to CDC COVID-19 vaccination recommendations here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>.

^[6] These items provide the PA Program with documentation of the student's refusal of the vaccination without disclosing protected health information related to student medical issues, in compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.19.

Student Immunization and Health Screening for International Travel Policy

(Accreditation Standard 3.07b)

Students completing international rotations may have additional immunization requirements and expenses (in addition to those noted elsewhere in this document) that will be the student's responsibility. These students are required to meet the CDC recommendations for travel for their specific area. Although the program seeks to do everything possible to ensure a safe environment for international rotations, students should be aware that there are inherent risks with traveling internationally and should take appropriate precautions. Students are also required to follow current university and government policies regarding international travel, which are subject to change. The Clinical Team will provide additional information regarding pertinent policies and recommendations to students completing international rotations.