

Substance Use Compliance and Drug Screening Policy

Purpose: All students who are accepted to the Colorado Mesa University (CMU) Department of Health Sciences (DHS) programs are required to submit a drug screen to maintain a safe and productive educational and clinical environment.

General Information

- A. Acceptance into the program is contingent upon a negative drug screening.
- B. The DHS Director, Director of Nursing Education Programs, Program Coordinator(s), and/or any other faculty supervising the student may be notified of the drug screen results.
- C. The DHS can request the completion of a random 10 panel drug screening test at any point during the program.
- D. Clinical agencies may request additional drug screening prior to attending clinicals and may be at the expense of the student.
- E. The student is ultimately responsible for submitting any drug screening results requested by the DHS, or CMU clinical affiliations to the DHS.
- F. A negative drug screen is required for progression in all DHS programs.
- G. If the drug screening result is positive, the student may be denied the opportunity to complete the required clinical rotation to matriculate through the program.
- H. A positive drug screen or refusal to submit to testing may result in dismissal from the DHS program.
- I. The following options may be enforced if a drug screen is positive.
 - Students can choose to take a medical leave of absence (e.g., to undergo treatment) if needed and must meet qualifications for admission to the program (i.e., a negative drug screen) prior to returning.
 - Students with a positive drug screen, that would have otherwise disqualified them from admission to the program, may be dismissed from all DHS classes and program(s).
 - The student can reapply to the program(s) once they meet compliance with admission requirements at the time of a new application.
 - Other options may be considered on an individual basis.
- J. Procedure for an appeal for the Department of Health Science decision of non-admission for a positive drug screen at admission or throughout the program:
 - The applicant will be notified in writing of the adverse drug screening decision.
 - If the applicant disagrees with the accuracy of information obtained, he/she may request in writing a review of the accuracy of the information within 10 days of the decision letter.
 - Continuation (e.g., of the application process or class/program dismissal) will be on hold pending results of the review.
 - It is the responsibility of the student to produce substantial evidence that demonstrates justification (e.g., documentation of medication prescribed by a medical professional [MD, DO, PA, NP] resulting in an adverse drug screening).
 - The applicant has the right to appeal the decision of the Department Director and/or designee to the Vice President for Student Services within 10 days of the decision.
 - The decision of the Vice President for Student Services and/or designee is final.
- K. Additional information will be provided upon offer of admission and upon request of an additional drug screening test.