

Pacific Union College Nursing Program

Health Clearance Requirements for Nursing Students

Working in a healthcare setting comes with a number of requirements related to health and nursing. As a student in the nursing program you will need to meet the following health clearance requirements. Documentation showing compliance of these requirements will need to be provided to CastleBranch, the agency we use to track clinical clearance documents. In addition, each nursing student is responsible for maintaining a current copy of their health records to be kept readily accessible, as facilities can ask anyone providing patient care to show health compliance documentation.

Items are due for renewal during the quarter must be renewed and documents submitted to CastleBranch prior to the renewal date. Students who have outdated or incomplete immunization records will NOT be allowed to attend clinical.

Health Clearance Requirements for Nursing Students (Upon Entry to Program)

1. **Physical examination:** Every nursing student must have an exam within 12 months of the due date for your first quarter. If you have any significant medical changes since the date of your examination, PUC reserves the right to request an additional examination prior to beginning or at any time during the nursing program. Physical examination forms are available at: <http://www.puc.edu/campus-services/health-services/home> – select *Health Information Form*.
2. **Tuberculosis skin tests:** Entering nursing students are required to have **two (2)** TB skin tests prior to beginning the program. This means that an initial TB Skin Test (TST) must be done after acceptance and within 4 months of starting the program, and then, if the result is negative, a second TST needs to be administered. The two tests must be 7 – 21 days apart, based on the administration date. This is called “two-step testing” which is required for all health care workers including nursing students. Test results that fall outside of the recommended time frame may result in the student needing additional TSTs.
3. **Immunizations:** Written verification must be in English and include your name, date/dates given, and signature of medical provider who administered the vaccines. Lab findings must also be official documents.

MMR: MMR stands for measles (rubeola), mumps, and rubella: If you had any of these illnesses as a child you can verify immunity with a blood test (titer) with your physician’s approval. The lab report must show all three “positive for immunity” for meeting this requirement. If measles and mumps are below the level of immunity desired you will be required to receive two (2) doses of the MMR vaccine at least 28 days apart. If only rubella is below the level of desired immunity you will be required to receive only one (1) dose of the MMR vaccine. Please note that there are no separate vaccines available for these conditions.

Please note: If you are unclear as to having these conditions or immunizations as a child you should know that MMR is safe to repeat and you will need to have two doses as listed above to meet the requirement. Also, some clinical rotation facilities may separately request that students show rubella evidence within the last 10 years, which may require repeating the MMR vaccine.

Varicella: Varicella is chicken pox. If you had the illness as a child, you must have a blood test (titer) to show that you are “positive for immunity.” If you did not have the illness or are unsure, you should request the vaccine of **two (2)** doses at least 28 days apart. (Health Services does not carry this vaccine due to the expense and fragility of the vaccine. It can be ordered and administered for you but arrangements must be made in advance).

Hepatitis B: Hepatitis B vaccination is a series of three (3) vaccines given over a six-month period. (It is very important to have vaccine #2 four weeks after vaccine #1, and vaccine #3 at least five months after vaccine #2).

DTaP/Tdap: DTaP stands for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. This vaccine should have the higher concentration of pertussis (thus the capital “P”). If you are unsure or it cannot be verified you must repeat this vaccine. Current recommendations are that anyone aged 19-65 who has direct patient contact in hospitals or clinics should get a dose of Tdap (the adult version of DTaP). A 2-year interval since the last Td is suggested, but not required.

Influenza Vaccine: You should also receive an annual influenza vaccine (after September 1). Waivers are accepted only for medical indications; in the case of a requested waiver you will be asked to complete a declination form signed by your healthcare provider.

Health Clearance Requirements for Nursing Students (Ongoing)

1. **Tuberculosis skin tests:** Continuing nursing students must participate in annual TB screening after the initial two-step process. As with other health documentation, verification of your annual screening must be provide to CastleBranch, prior to the renewal date.

*If you have additional questions please contact the Nursing and Health Sciences department Office Manager for clarification. Your immunization requirements are your responsibility!