

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

South College – Physician Assistant Studies (Asheville)



In accordance to ARC-PA standards, the Program requires Physician Assistant students adhere to the current Center for Disease Control (CDC) vaccination (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>) and TB recommendations (<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>) for healthcare personnel. As such, all students are required to receive and maintain immunizations as mandated in the chart below. Proof of immunization, serologic immunity, or initiation of vaccination series is required prior to initial entry into the program and must be updated annually as necessary. All vaccination series **must** be completed and updated with boosters as necessary prior to initiation of supervised clinical practice experiences.

Required Immunizations & Vaccinations	
Immunization/Vaccination	CDC Recommendation
MMR Measles, Mumps, Rubella	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two dose vaccination given at least 28 days apart OR Serologic evidence of immunity.
Tdap Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis	One-time dose of Tdap if you have not received Tdap previously. Td booster every 10 years thereafter.
Varicella	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two dose vaccination given at least 28 days apart OR Serologic evidence of immunity.
Hepatitis B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Three dose vaccination series AND Serologic evidence of immunity (anti-HBs) 1-2 months after series completion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If anti-HBs is negative, student is required to receive additional 2-dose (<i>Hepilisav-B</i>) or 3-dose (<i>Engerix-B</i> or <i>Recombivax-HB</i>) Hep B vaccine regimen on a routine schedule, followed by repeat anti-HBs testing. If anti-HBs is negative after two complete series, student is considered a “non-responder” and should be tested for HepB surface antigen (HBsAg) and counseled by primary care provider.
Annual Influenza	1 dose of influenza vaccination between October 1 – October 31 annually.

Acceptable Documentation	
Immunization/Vaccination	Acceptable Documentation
Vaccination records	Documentation from your health care providers office that clearly shows your name, name of vaccination and date(s) of administration.
Serologic evidence of immunity	Qualitative or Quantitative titer lab report that clearly shows your name, name of test and results.
Tuberculosis Screening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> TB SCREENING & EVALUATION FORM AND IST – Documentation from doctors office that clearly shows your name, name of test, date of placement, date read (48-72 hours from placement) and test result (positive results should be reported in mm) (OR) IGRA – Lab report that clearly shows your name, name of test, date of test and test result.
Influenza Vaccination	Documentation from doctors office that clearly shows your name, name of vaccination for current year, date of administration and lot number.
Other Accepted Documentation	We will also accept a signed and attested letter from your provider, on original clinic letterhead verifying numbers and dates of vaccinations.

Elective Immunizations

There are additional elective vaccinations which may be considered and recommended by your medical provider, if indicated, based on the presence of certain risk factors. Decisions to pursue these vaccinations remains the sole discretion of you and your medical

professional. As such, any elective immunizations are not considered a program requirement. Elective vaccines may include, but are not limited to: **Pneumococcal, Meningococcal & Hepatitis A.**

Immunizations & Pregnancy

Additional routine vaccinations given during pregnancy are not a program requirement. Additional vaccinations may be indicated and recommended by your obstetrician based on the presence of certain risk factors. Decisions to pursue these vaccinations remains the sole discretion of you and your medical professional. **For more information regarding immunizations and pregnancy, please refer to the CDC website:** <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/pregnant-women/index.html#vaccines-during>

Required Screenings & Clearance Forms	
Form	South College Requirement
TB Screening & Evaluation Tool (Annual Tuberculosis Screening)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Two-Step Testing</u>: Two separate Mantoux PPD skin tests done 1 – 3 weeks apart (within 3 months prior to arrival at South College). <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) TB blood test (within 3 months prior to arrival at South College). <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Submission of the TB Screening & Evaluation Tool.</p> <p>If either above tests are positive, Chest X-Ray and medical evaluation are required to determine latent vs. active TB infection. *CXR is considered protected health information and will not be viewable to South College PA Faculty/Staff per ARC-PA Standard A3.21.</p>
Health Appraisal and Physical Examination Form*	<p>Health Appraisal and Physical Examination Form completed and signed by your health care provider (MD, DO, PA or NP).</p> <p><i>*Form will not be viewable to South College PA Faculty/Staff per ARC-PA Standard A3.21</i></p>
Student Fit For Duty Form	<p>Student Fit For Duty Form completed and signed by your health care provider (MD, DO, PA or NP).</p>

Exemption

Exemptions from influenza and other required vaccines may be considered if there is a known contra-indication. In such cases, students will be required to provide documentation. As medical issues preventing immunizations fall under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for personal health information, the program requires a signed **Vaccine Deferral Form** which substantiates the refusal without providing your protected health information to our program. The **Vaccine Deferral Form** must be submitted in lieu of other immunization documentation.

Exemption Disclaimer: In the event that immunization exemption is granted, the School of Physician Assistant Studies at South College-Asheville cannot guarantee clinical placement for supervised clinical practice experiences due to site specific requirements held by affiliating healthcare institutions.

Cost

All cost associated with immunization, boosters, and laboratory testing remain the sole responsibility of the student.

Questions

If you have questions regarding vaccinations or TB testing, please contact the South College School of Physician Assistant studies at PAAsheville@south.edu.