



Health Requirement for Registration Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to help protect the health and safety of all students, faculty and staff at The University of Alabama (UA). In accordance with the recommendations of the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the American College Health Association (ACHA), UA requires immunizations as set forth in this policy.

Policy

All incoming students, regardless of status, are required to have acceptable proof on file at the Student Health Center and Pharmacy (SHCP) of the following immunizations, immunities and/or screenings:

1. **MMR:** If born after December 31, 1956, proof of adequate immunization against or immunity to measles, mumps and rubella or proof of immunity.
2. **MenACWY:** Meningococcal quadrivalent vaccination for all entering students less than 21 years of age and for any student living in campus housing regardless of age. The vaccination must have been received at age 16 or older.
3. **Varicella:** Adequate proof of immunization against or immunity to varicella.
4. **Tdap:** Adequate proof of immunization against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.
5. **Tuberculosis (TB):** Screening for tuberculosis by completing a Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Form. If the student screens negative on the assessment form, then the student DOES NOT need further TB testing. Those students who screen positive on the assessment form will be required to have tuberculosis testing performed in the United States and report results to SHCP. Incoming students with positive TB testing may be required to satisfy additional screening, testing or treatment requirements. Only tuberculosis testing and imaging done in the United States will be accepted. Students requiring TB testing can have this done upon arrival on campus at the SHCP.

Students who do not satisfy these requirements will receive a hold on their records, which will prohibit their dropping, adding or registering for future classes until these requirements are fulfilled. After completing these requirements, a SHCP representative will remove the student's registration hold so the student may register for classes.

The SHCP also strongly recommends that all students receive annual immunizations offered for the prevention of common infectious diseases.

Students may submit an official certificate of immunization, a photocopy of an immunization certificate or written documentation from their health care provider. All documentation must be in English. The preferred and most efficient method to submit proof of vaccination is to complete the UA Immunization Form. This form should be completed by the documenting health care provider's office and returned to the University.

The SHCP staff will process verification of screenings and immunizations.

If individuals do not have proof or have not been immunized, they must be immunized against these diseases prior to attending, enrolling or participating in UA academic, research, observing or clinical program activities.

The SHCP will provide immunizations, tuberculin skin testing and titer testing on a fee-for-service basis for any student who needs to meet the UA immunization or titer requirements. Students may choose to fulfill these requirements at their local health department or at a private health care provider office within the United States.

Students enrolled in online classes only, with no on-campus classes, are exempted from these requirements unless otherwise required by certain programs or activities.

Current UA faculty enrolling in on-campus classes are exempted from these requirements unless otherwise required by certain programs or activities.

Exemptions

Exceptions to this policy may be made in limited circumstances for students who can document medical and/or other contraindications to a vaccine or who have a sincerely held religious belief, which would preclude receiving a vaccine. Forms to request an exemption are available for download from mybama.ua.edu. Exemptions do not apply to the TB screening requirement.

For medical exemptions, the student must submit the Medical Exemption Form to provide documentation supporting the medical necessity for the exemption. This form must be completed by the student's medical provider. The completed form must be submitted to SHCP.

For religious exemption requests, the student and/or parent/guardian (for minors) must sign and complete the Religious Exemption Form outlining and affirming the student's sincerely held religious tenants, beliefs or practices. The completed form must be submitted to SHCP.

All requested waivers will be reviewed and, if appropriate, approved by the SHCP Medical Director or designee. The approval or denial of an exemption request is final. An approved waiver will be documented in the student's SHCP medical record.

Students with an immunization waiver may be required to leave campus in the event of an outbreak for which the student is not appropriately vaccinated. This action is for the protection of the student and the campus community. This decision is made by the Medical Director or through consultation with an Alabama Public Health Officer. The decision to return to campus is made through the same procedure.

Participation in certain programs or activities may be restricted to students who have received the UA required vaccines. Students studying abroad may have to satisfy vaccine requirements of the program's host country.

Scope

This applies to all incoming students.