

**Immunizations / Testing Requirements
(Fall 2023)**

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENTATION FORM IS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

<http://rx.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/immunizations-fall-2018.pdf>

*****ALL STUDENTS MUST USE THE FORM ABOVE FOR DOCUMENTATION ALONG WITH PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AS REQUIRED*****

Currently, the UGA College of Pharmacy requires all students to be immunized against measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), Tetanus (Td / Tdap), Hepatitis B and Varicella Zoster (chicken pox). Students must also be tested annually for tuberculosis exposure. These requirements are necessary since students will participate in introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experiences throughout their 4 years in the College of Pharmacy. **In order to ensure students have all required vaccinations and testing completed appropriately prior to the beginning of classes, all immunizations and testing will need to be completed (and information uploaded into CORE) by May 15, 2023. Those students that do not meet this deadline may be prohibited from enrolling in required coursework.** Please note: Requirements are subject to change based upon experiential site requirements.

Immunization Requirements (*Note: These differ from the UGA General Requirements*)

MMR: 2 MMRs OR quantitative titer indicating immunity to each disease

Tetanus: Evidence of a Tdap vaccination and current tetanus vaccination. Note: if the Tdap was completed within the past 10 years, this will serve as evidence of current tetanus vaccination status. If the Tdap was completed more than 10 years ago, students must also have evidence of a current Td or Tdap vaccination.

Hepatitis B: Completion of the Hepatitis B vaccination series **AND** quantitative hepatitis b surface antibody titer indicating immunity. Traditionally, the hepatitis b series has been a 3 shot vaccination series (Engerix-B or Recombivax HB) administered over 4 or 6 months. In 2018, a new agent was approved (Heplisav-B) which is a 2 shot vaccination series over 1 month. If the quantitative hepatitis b series is negative, the student should contact their healthcare provider to determine if additional vaccinations are required. If additional vaccinations are suggested, they should be obtained along with a quantitative hepatitis b surface antibody titer 30 days after the end of the new series. If no additional vaccinations are suggested, a physician's note should be obtained indicating the reason for the recommendation. Note: The CDC recommendation for Healthcare Providers is that in the event of a negative titer after the first series, individuals should either (1) complete a second series followed by a repeat titer 1 month after the final vaccination, or (2) obtain a booster with a follow up titer after one month, however, if the titer remains negative, the entire 2nd series should be repeated.

Varicella Zoster: 2 shot vaccination series OR quantitative titer indicating immunity. Note: Documentation of disease is not sufficient.

TB Status Although either of the two options below is acceptable, an IGRA test is preferred based on experiential site clearance requirements.

- **Preferred: QuantiFERON-TB Gold or TSPOT.TB Test completed within the last 12 months.** If negative, this test will be required annually throughout the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program.
- **2 step Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) which is composed of 2 separate tests completed 1 – 3 weeks apart within the past 12 months.** An annual tuberculin skin test (1 test) will be required throughout the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program. Note: The documentation must include the reading in millimeters as well as the outcome (positive or negative). Note: A TST reading of 10mm or more is considered positive for healthcare workers. Reminder – Tuberculin skin tests cannot be placed until at least one month following live vaccinations such as varicella or MMR.

Positive Tests:

- For those with a history of positive TST status, you must provide evidence of the positive TST status, a written radiologist report from a chest xray, and a treatment statement from your physician. If the CXR is negative, you should consider receiving either a QuantiFERON-TB Gold Test or TSPOT.TB test as well.
- For those with a positive QuantiFERON-TB Gold or TSPOT.TB test, you must provide evidence of the positive test, a written radiologist report from a chest xray, and a treatment statement from your physician.

Other requirements that must be completed (and verification provided) by the first day of fall classes include:

1. Physical exam – documentation should use our form (<http://rx.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/health-form.pdf>) unless you complete the physical at the UGA Health Center where you will receive a letter on letterhead that must be brought to our office, and
2. Current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider BLS CPR certification through an in person (i.e. not online) course. Opportunities will be provided at the College of Pharmacy in early May and August to take the required CPR course at no cost. Students will receive information on these opportunities as they are available. You can also find a hands-on (i.e. non internet based) course on your own by contacting your local American Heart Association affiliate. This, however, will be at your own cost.

Students are also required to participate in both the mandatory requirement for health insurance and malpractice insurance. No verification of coverage is needed for these items since it will be an automatic charge applied to your tuition. Please read the specific information below regarding these items.

Health Insurance:

Since the College of Pharmacy has a mandatory requirement that students maintain health insurance coverage throughout the curriculum, students are eligible to be covered under the Mandatory Doctor of Pharmacy plan (<http://www.hr.uga.edu/mandatory-plan>) of The University of Georgia Student Insurance Program. Students will be automatically enrolled in the program and the premium will appear as an additional fee on your student account. This fee, however, is not covered through the HOPE scholarship. Students can apply for waivers through the approved vendor to opt out of the program. These waivers must be reapplied for each semester students are enrolled in the Doctor of Pharmacy program. Students will be emailed over the summer to provide additional information about the health insurance process and plan. For additional information about the insurance, please refer to the web link listed above.

Malpractice Insurance:

For Pharmacy Student Malpractice Coverage, the annual policy charge will be included in the student fall tuition (estimated \$11.00 annually) throughout the professional curriculum. This policy will cover students in all approved college related experiences.

Other Required Information – Once enrolled:

Once enrolled, students will be required to obtain and maintain a State of Georgia pharmacy intern license. Throughout the program, students must provide evidence of current immunizations, testing, physical, American Heart Association Healthcare Provider BLS CPR certification, and intern license certification. Note: Annual influenza immunizations will also be required after enrollment beginning in the fall semester of the first year, however, it is not required as part of the initial enrollment vaccinations. Lastly, students will be subject to obtaining periodic background checks and drug screens as required by the facilities in which they complete their experiential training. These will be conducted at the student's expense.

The University Health Service and the Registrar's Office do not have systems in place to share health information with us, so we must have copies of any vaccination information even if it resides in any other University area.

The UGA Requirements that must also be completed before class registration is allowed are outlined at the following link:
http://www.uhs.uga.edu/appts_forms/immunizations.html

Should you have any questions regarding the immunization policy, please contact:

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