



Immunizations & Health Screening Policy

All PA students must verify, via health screening, that they do not have conditions that endanger the health and well-being of other students and patients. The Northwestern College PA Program requires that all students enrolled in the program be immunized against Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Hepatitis B, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, and Meningitis. In addition, immunization against Influenza and COVID-19 is highly recommended during the clinical year and is a requirement of many clinical rotation sites. Please refer to the Immunizations and Health Screening Requirements document for a complete list of health screening requirements.

Students must provide documentation of receipt of required immunizations, or a titer showing immunity, to Viewpoint, a third-party service contracted to review and store student health records. Students who do not comply with immunization requirements may not be permitted to enroll or be assigned to clinical rotations until the requirements are met. Screening requirements are subject to change as mandated by clinical sites or laws regulating occupational exposure.

Immunization requirements for Northwestern College PA students are based on current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Iowa Department of Health (IDPH) recommendations. The recommendations used to develop program requirements can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/adult-medical-condition.html#table-conditions> and <https://hhs.iowa.gov/immunization#iowa-immunization-requirements>.

The following policies relate to all health screening requirements:

1. Specific health screening requirements are outlined in the Immunizations and Health Screening Requirements document and in each student's Viewpoint account, which is made available to students upon acceptance of their seat in the program. Students are responsible for entering documentation into their Viewpoint account to demonstrate compliance with program requirements.
2. Students are responsible for any/all charges related to verification of health screening.
3. Students may choose the examiner but must complete all program defined requirements.
4. The program's health forms are to be used to satisfactorily complete all health screening requirements. Health screening forms are considered confidential and program faculty will not have access to students' medical records with the exception of documentation of immunization records, TB screenings, needle sticks/sharp reports, results of drug screens and criminal background checks, and documentation of completion of a physical examination, which are not considered medical records in the context of maintaining PA student records.
5. Immunization and health screening records may be released to clinical locations with student's written consent.
6. Students who intend to request a medical or religious exemption to receiving a vaccination must provide documentation to Viewpoint. For students in their didactic year, Northwestern College evaluates exemption requests and will attempt to reasonably accommodate an approved exemption during the didactic year. However, Northwestern College has no control over the immunization requirements or exemption policies of clinical rotation sites. For example, many clinical rotations require proof of immunization for Influenza and COVID-19, while others may consider medical and/or religious exemptions for them. As a result, students who do not meet the immunization requirements of a particular rotation site may not be able to have that rotation. Northwestern College will attempt to reasonably accommodate students by looking for alternative sites. A reasonable accommodation may include an extension of the time to complete program requirements to obtain a PA degree. However, in no instance shall the time to complete program requirements be extended beyond 48 months after matriculation into the PA program.