

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE
DIVISION OF NURSING
POLICY STATEMENT
DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Nursing Division of Northern Oklahoma College is making every effort to protect our students and clients from the dangers of substance abuse. It is known that the illegal use of drugs poses a danger to the health and safety of the user and people associated with a user, such as classmates and clients. Drug abuse also damages the integrity and reputation of all student nurses, the institution, and the nursing division.

Our drug-testing policy is based on the concern that if students are using illicit drugs, they may endanger themselves or cause injury to others. Given this major concern for the students and clients' health and safety, the college will screen for possible drug abuse. The urine test will be used at any time the students' performance is in question, when their behavior is questionable or if they exhibit reasonable suspicion.

All student nurses are subject to compliance with this policy. The definition of a "Student Nurse" is "any participant in a nursing clinical, nursing class, or nursing skills lab activity." All students that accept the privilege of participating in nursing for the college are subject to drug testing. Participants in nursing are free to refuse drug testing; however, those who refuse will not be allowed the privilege to participate in clinicals for the college. This will automatically remove the student from the nursing program.

Reasonable effort will be made to ensure confidentiality of the drug tests which will be conducted by a qualified lab organization using a procedure to protect the identity and integrity of each urine specimen. Confidentiality of the results will be observed. The procedure will be explained and implemented by the testing organization.

Testing times:

1. Any time the student's ability to perform is in question.
2. Any number of routine unannounced tests initiated by the Northern Oklahoma College Nursing Division.
3. Random drug screening.

If students do not obtain testing on the day specified, they will have to obtain urine drug screen results from a specified agency within 24 hours. If the student chooses this route, the screening fee will be the responsibility of the student.

A positive drug screen will prevent the student from attending nursing clinicals and lead to dismissal from the program.