

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE
Division of Nursing
Drug Screening Policy

The Division of Nursing faculty have a professional and ethical responsibility to students and clients who receive nursing care from students, to provide a safe teaching and learning environment, as well as provide safe care to clients. Engaging in clinical nursing practice activities or coming to class or the practice lab while under the influence of alcohol or controlled or illegal substances constitutes unprofessional nursing practice and will not be tolerated.

The Division of Nursing faculty will adhere to the college's policy prohibiting the illegal possession, use, or distribution of drugs and/or alcohol by students on college property (class) or as a part of any college activity (clinical). Violators will be prosecuted in accordance with applicable laws and ordinances and will be subject to disciplinary action by the college in conformance with stated policy (See the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, Amendment of 1989, Public Law 101-226).

Drug screens are required of all nursing students upon request. **A positive drug screen, including cannabis, will prevent the student from attending clinicals and will therefore lead to dismissal from the program.** Fees for the drug screen are the responsibility of the student as part of enrollment fees. If subsequent tests are required for any reason, payment will be the responsibility of the student. Random drug screens are possible at any time during the program with payment the responsibility of the student.

The Division of Nursing faculty believe chemical dependency is an illness in which alcohol or drug use interferes with the person's ability to function safely and affects the person's well-being. Chemical dependency is defined as physical and/or psychological dependence on drugs and/or alcohol and, if left untreated, will cause health problems, and possibly even death.

The Division of Nursing faculty will confront students with chemical dependency or direct them into treatment or dismiss them from the program if the drug screen is positive. Continuation in the nursing program may depend upon the student's compliance with treatment and the plan and/or contract developed with the Nursing Chair. Faculty believe that students who comply with treatment and remain chemical free can become safe practicing registered nurses.

Refusal to agree to a plan and/or contract will result in the student being dismissed from the nursing program; readmission shall be on a space available basis and shall be contingent upon agreement to cooperate with a treatment plan and/or contract and/or provide proof of rehabilitation.

Faculty strongly recommend that on the licensure application the student offer full disclosure of chemical dependence and extent of treatment received. Resultant of the student's history of chemical dependency, follow-up by the state board of nursing may occur.

LPNs who have a positive drug test will be reported to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.