

	Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Department of Physician Assistant	Policy Number	PHAS - 010
	Student Health Requirements and Immunization Policy (A3.09a, A3.09b, A3.16b, A3.18)	Effective Date	08/01/2022
		Last Reviewed	05/13/2025
	Approved by: Gina S. Brown, Ph.D., MSA, RN, FAAN, FNAP, FADLN Dean, College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences	Revision Date	10/10/2025
		Next Review	05/13/2027

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I. PURPOSE

To provide physician assistant students with the Howard University healthcare professional student health requirements and Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommended immunizations for health professional students.

II. POLICY

It is the practice and procedure of the Howard University Physician Assistant (PA) Department to require matriculating Howard University Physician Assistant students to meet the institution health requirements and CDC recommended immunizations to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Physician Assistant students may encounter blood or bodily fluids which places them at potential risk of being exposed to Hepatitis B and C, HIV, other viruses, and infectious processes. Therefore, ensuring up-to-date immunization is a necessary safety measure.

III. DEFINITIONS

N/A

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Students are required to complete a university health screening process through the Howard University Student Health Center prior to starting their matriculation, then annually thereafter. More frequent health screenings may be performed, as necessary.
All registered graduate students are automatically enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan ([Student Health Insurance Plan \(UHC\)](#)) unless proof of other ACA compliant plan can be provided. Students covered by another insurance plan must complete the Waiver form ([Student Health Insurance Plan Waiver Form](#)). In addition, you will need your student ID number and detailed information about your current insurance policy.

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- B. All students are required to provide verification of immunization ([Immunization Certificate Form](#)).
- C. All new students to the University are required to submit a completed Entrance Medical Record form to the University Student Health Center via the student health portal.
- D. The health screening includes:
1. Initial physical examination physical within 2 years
 2. Annual tuberculosis – 2 step PPD or blood screening (QuantiFERON Gold) completed within 21 days
 - Fall semester – screening between March to August
 - Spring semester – screening between July to January
 3. Annual influenza vaccine
 4. Serology testing is annual and is a part of the annual Health Sciences physical examination
 - Proof of immunity through **quantitative** titers:
 - i. MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) – 2 doses
 - ii. Hepatitis B – 3 doses
 - iii. Varicella – 2 doses
 - iv. Hepatitis B – 3 doses
 5. Tetanus (Td)/Tdap - within the past 10 years
 - Tdap should receive a single dose of Tdap prior to their rotation. Tdap dose interval may be as short as two years from the last Td
 6. Meningitis vaccine, after age 16
 7. Additional requirements if rotating through other specialties (such as nasopharyngeal)
 8. COVID-19 vaccine*
 - * Effective May 12, 2023, we strongly encourage all Howard University

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community members to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, including boosters. Vaccination will not be required for campus or residence hall access. We encourage everyone to make the best decisions for their health and safety.

Masking on campus is optional except where required, such as health facilities, clinical settings, and clinical training sites. Masks will be optional in classrooms; however, individual faculty may require masks in their courses.

In the event of a documented (University approved) exemption, the PA program will not require the COVID-19 vaccine. **However**, the program is required to adhere to all clinical site policies, rules, and regulations.

Policies of clinical affiliate sites continually change, and sites may require students to have the COVID-19 vaccine to attend the clinical rotation. The program may not be able to assign students who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine to clinical sites. This may result in a delay of program completion and incur additional tuition and fees.

The Howard University Physician Assistant Program does not currently have international supervised practice clinical experience offerings.

****All student health records are securely maintained by the Howard University Student Health Center. At the beginning of each semester, the program receives a health clearance list/certificate to verify student compliance.***