



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
ARLINGTON

**COLLEGE OF NURSING  
AND HEALTH INNOVATION**

<b>Title of Policy/Procedure: Graduate Nursing Clinical Clearance Requirements</b>
<b>Approval Responsibility (Title &amp; Name): Chair, Department of Graduate Nursing</b>
<b>Approved by (Title &amp; Name): John Gonzalez</b>
<b>Last Date of Approval: 5/27/2021</b>
<b>Communication Requirement and Date: Graduate Nursing Students, Graduate Nursing Faculty, Clinical Coordinators, Post on Website and InPlace</b>
<b>Date for Next Review: 5/27/2022</b>
<b>Official SharePoint Location Name and Path:</b>
<b>Comments: Overview of Clinical Course Clearance Requirements</b>

### **Overview**

The University of Texas at Arlington CONHI contracts with clinical agencies to provide experiential learning experiences to graduate nursing students in the MSN Education, MSN Nurse Practitioner, and DNP programs. To ensure student and public safety, UTA has developed minimal clinical clearance requirements to which students must adhere, to enter the clinical setting. These requirements are integrated into the affiliation agreement with each clinical agency, which underscores the need for student compliance with clinical clearance requirements.

### **Policy**

1. All Clinical Clearance Requirements are listed and tracked in Castle Branch / Complio.
2. Students must be compliant with all clinical clearance requirements within 60 days of being admitted to a graduate nursing program. Compliance must be maintained throughout the entire program.
3. Noncompliance with any of the clinical clearance requirements, at any time during the program, will result in one or more of the following.
  - a. A clinical hold placed on the student's account which will prevent the student from registering for the next semester.
  - b. A delay in starting a clinical course.
  - c. A denied clinical placement.
  - d. Removal from the clinical setting.
  - e. Failure in a clinical course.

4. All registered nurse licenses of all UTA graduate nursing students must be unencumbered by their respective state Board of Nursing (BON) to participate in all graduate clinical nursing courses. It is imperative that any student whose license becomes encumbered by any BON must immediately notify the Chair of The Department of Graduate Nursing. Students with an encumbrance on any state RN license will not be permitted to enroll in a clinical course or will be removed from a clinical course.
5. Vaccine and TB requirements are developed by the Department of Graduate Nursing to comply with CDC guidelines and to meet most clinical agencies requirements.
6. Clinical agencies may develop additional requirements with which graduate nursing students must also comply.
7. Graduate nursing students requesting clearance for a clinical course must comply with the Department of Graduate Nursing's minimal vaccine and TB screening requirements. Noncompliance will result in the student's clinical site being denied and their clinical course start date being delayed until the next semester.
8. Graduate nursing students will not be exempt from any clinical clearance requirement when their respective agency does not require an item which is required by the Department of Graduate Nursing.
9. The Department of Graduate Nursing recognizes and honors that medical contraindications to vaccines may prevent a student from obtaining one or more vaccines. Any student with a medical contraindication must complete the medical declination waiver, have it signed by their provider, and submit the completed form in their Castle Branch/Complio tracker account.
10. The Department of Graduate Nursing recognizes and honors that a student may have an exemption for one or more vaccines for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs. Any student claiming an exemption for reasons of conscience must present a signed and notarized affidavit from the Texas Health and Human Services. This includes students who reside in and outside of Texas.
  - a. The process for requesting an affidavit for exemption is found at: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/exemptions.aspx>
  - b. Upon completion the student must submit the form to their clinical coordinator and upload it to their Castle Branch/Complio tracker account and to their clinical coordinator.
11. Exemptions to vaccines, medical or otherwise, are only good for admission to the university. Students who file a medical declination waiver or exemption for reasons of conscience must still conform with each of their clinical agency's requirements.
12. All students must complete a FERPA release. Upon verifying that the **FERPA release** has been completed by the student, the clinical coordinator will notify the student's clinical agencies that they have filed a medical declination waiver or exemption for reason of conscience. The clinical agency shall be informed of all vaccines which the student has not received and will be asked if they will allow the student into their facility without the respective vaccines.
13. The clinical agency has the final determination on whether a student who has filed a medical declination waiver or exemption for reasons of conscience may complete

clinicals in their facility. Should the clinical facility decline to have a student, the self-placement request will be denied. The student will not be allowed to enroll in the clinical course and their degree plan changed to start their clinical course next semester.

14. Unfavorable results on a criminal background check or a urine drug screen, at any time during the program, will result in one or more of the following:
  - a. A clinical hold placed on the student's account which will prevent the student from registering for the next semester.
  - b. A delay in starting a clinical course.
  - c. A denied clinical placement.
  - d. Removal from the clinical setting.
  - e. Failure in a clinical course.
15. Students are required to read and follow the CONHI Substance Abuse Policy found in the [MSN/PMC Student Handbook](#) and in the [DNP Student Handbook](#).
16. Students are responsible for paying all clinical clearance requirement costs. This includes but is not limited to the cost of vaccines, titer testing, TB testing, CPR, ACLS, PALS, NRP, criminal background check, and urine drug screen.