



Policy Title: Minimum Health Requirements

Related Standard(s): A3.09a-b

I. Purpose:

To outline the required minimum health requirements for prospective students.

II. Health Requirements for the Program:

The list below includes all potential health requirements for students, including those with specific circumstances.

Immunizations for all students:

As part of strict accreditation requirements, the MUPAP uses the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) immunization guidelines for healthcare providers to determine immunization requirements for matriculating students. The CDC policy can be found at this link:

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-adults/recommended-vaccines/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html

Navigate to the section for "Healthcare Workers" to see the required vaccines. Note: This website is updated regularly, and the program reserves the right to enforce the guidelines posted on the CDC's website, even if they differ from the vaccines listed below or University minimum requirements.

Up-to-date vaccination including:

- COVID-19 vaccine and boosters
- Chickenpox vaccine (Varicella)
- Flu vaccine
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Meningococcal vaccine
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) or Td (tetanus and diphtheria)
 - Tdap & Td must have been received within 10 years, or a booster is required

Immunizations recommended for students traveling to USVI:

Vaccines recommended by the CDC:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/usvirgin-islands>

Up-to-date vaccination including:

- COVID-19 vaccine and boosters
- Chickenpox vaccine (Varicella)
- Flu vaccine
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Meningococcal vaccine
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) or Td (tetanus and diphtheria)
- Polio
- Shingles
- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid

Immunizations recommended for students traveling to Ghana:

Vaccines recommended by the CDC:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/ghana>

Up-to-date vaccination including:

- COVID-19 vaccine and boosters
- Chickenpox vaccine (Varicella)
- Flu vaccine
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Meningococcal vaccine
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) or Td (tetanus and diphtheria)
- Polio
- Shingles
- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid
- Yellow-Fever

Prophylaxis for the following conditions:

- Malaria

Prophylaxis/Vaccination in case-by-case scenarios if recommended by Marist Health Services, CDC, and if traveling to areas with considerable risk:

- Cholera
- Rabies

Immunizations recommended for students traveling to Italy:

Vaccines recommended by the CDC:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/italy>

Up-to-date vaccination including:

- COVID-19 vaccine and boosters
- Chickenpox vaccine (Varicella)
- Flu vaccine
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Meningococcal vaccine
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) or Td (tetanus and diphtheria)
- Polio
- Shingles
- Hepatitis A

Students demonstrating interest in international travel will be oriented to the requirements through Marist's Abroad program.

Immunizations recommended for healthcare workers:

The following vaccines are suggested for healthcare workers by the CDC, but are not required by the program:

- [HPV vaccine](#) (human papillomavirus) – recommended for adults ages 18 through 26 years and adults ages 27 through 45 years based on shared clinical decision-making.
- [Shingles vaccine](#) (zoster) – recommended for all adults 50 years of age and older.

Immunization records should include name, date of birth, and the facility/provider who issued the record. They must also include all doses of each vaccine, including primary and any boosters.

Screenings & Titers for all students:

The following includes screenings and titers required by the program:

- Medical Attestation Form completed within 2 months of starting the program by a PCP
 - This includes a physical examination with attestation of good physical and mental fitness
- Tuberculosis Screening within 2 months of starting the program
 - 2-step PPD or QuantiFERON blood test
 - If previous positive result, chest x-ray
- Hepatitis B:
 - Surface Antibody Titer within 1 year
 - Core/IgG Total Antibody
 - Required by some sites
 - Surface Antigen Test within 1 year
- Measles/Rubeola Titer within 1 year
- Mumps Titer within 1 year
- Rubella Titer within 1 year
- Varicella Titer within 1 year
- Titer results are expected to be discussed with the student's PCP. If there is no evidence of immunity, the student may need to receive a booster/vaccine and retest, if appropriate.

These must be official lab reports showing titer results for all titers listed, and QuantiFERON. Third-party references for a titer result will not be accepted. Results must list the student's name and date of birth, as well as the collection date, numerical results, and reference ranges for each titer result. Do not send any lab tests other than those required by the program.

Specific to Human Anatomy Lab:

- Contact lenses cannot be worn while in the lab.
- If you are pregnant or expecting to become pregnant, please reach out to the program to discuss safety options.

Related Policies:

- Students not in compliance with the immunization and basic health requirements will not be matriculated into the program. Any lapse of vaccination or titers during the program will limit the student's ability to continue in the program.
- Any student out of compliance in the clinical year will not be allowed in any clinical site.
- Medical or religious exemptions for vaccinations, while sufficient to be a student at Marist University, may not be honored at any clinical rotation site. The program cannot guarantee contiguous clinical rotations, an on-time graduation, or completion of the program if students do not meet site-specific vaccination requirements.
- The Marist University Physician Assistant Program requires that all students have active health care coverage while enrolled in the program. Marist University offers a student health insurance plan through an independent insurance company that can be purchased annually at <https://www.marist.edu/student-life/services/health-services/health-insurance-plan>. Private or state insurance must be comparable to that offered by the University and must be accepted locally. Copies of all health insurance cards must be kept by the Program.
- All students undergo toxicology screening, as a program requirement, prior to the clinical year. This is in the form of a 10-panel drug screening. Additional drug testing may be required by sites during the clinical year, or if requested by program faculty, staff, or administrators during the didactic year. The program and clinical sites retain the right to do random drug testing as well.
 - If a student cannot meet the requirements of a rotation based on the results of a positive drug screen, neither the PA Program nor Marist University is obligated to

refund tuition and/or fees. There is no obligation to accommodate a student in this situation.

III. Audience:

Prospective PA Students, current PA Students, Faculty/Staff/Administrators, Accrediting Bodies.

IV. Relevant Source(s):

Program Handbook; Program Welcome Packet; Elective Syllabi