Background Check and Drug Screening Guidelines For Valencia Allied Health and Nursing Programs

Valencia does not have an official policy regarding student background checks or drug screening. However, all students entering the Nursing and Allied Health programs are required to submit to a criminal background check and drug testing because these programs include clinical rotations in a variety of external affiliate health care facilities, which have policies that we must respect pursuant to our contracts with them.

Our affiliates’ policies require that students serving in a clinical rotation be free of specific offenses that would disqualify them for a student clinical and have their civil rights intact. In addition, our affiliates require that students return negative drug screening results based on a list of specified substances. These guidelines are derived from the requirements specified by our affiliates, and are subject to change upon any modification to our affiliates’ policies.

PROCEDURES:

Our affiliates require Level 1 and 2 criminal background checks and 10-panel drug testing of all students. This screening must be completed utilizing the Allied Health and Nursing Divisions’ process, including use of its designated vendor(s). The results of background checks and drug testing from other facilities or entities will not be acceptable for admission to Valencia’s Allied Health and Nursing programs. The clinical portions of the programs are required for program completion and students cannot fulfill the program requirements if they cannot participate in the clinical experience.

Incoming students:

Background Checks
- Valencia’s healthcare affiliates require Level 1 criminal background checks for all students who participate in clinical experiences in their facilities.
- The Agency for Healthcare Administration, which governs our affiliates, requires Level 2 background checks/FDLE finger printing for students whose clinical program places them with vulnerable populations.

Valencia’s health care affiliates have provided the administration with a comprehensive list of offenses that they deem unacceptable for students entering their facilities. This list is compiled solely by the affiliate, without any input from Valencia. When Valencia receives the results of each background check, those results are compared with the list provided by the affiliate to determine if a listed offense has been discovered. Valencia does not make any determination of the suitability of a student to serve in a clinical rotation or subjectively interpret any results; it merely determines whether an offense listed on a background check report is present on the affiliate’s list of unacceptable offenses and advise the affiliate of that fact.

The student may meet with the appropriate Academic Dean for consultation regarding the results of background checks; however, the Dean will advise the student only based upon clearly defined offenses provided by the affiliates. The Dean does reserve the right to consider the student for program entry at a later date; if the disposition of an offense is changed in the student’s favor; he/she may be reconsidered for entry to a program.
Drug Testing

- 10 panel drug testing must be negative for all substances.
- Dilute negative specimens will not require retesting, unless required by specific health care agency.

Valencia’s health care affiliates have provided the college administration with a comprehensive list of substances that they deem unacceptable for students entering their facilities. This list is compiled solely by the affiliate, without any input from Valencia. When Valencia receives the results of each drug screening, those results are compared with the list provided by the affiliate to determine if the presence of a listed substance has been discovered. Valencia does not make any determination of the suitability of a student to serve in a clinical rotation or subjectively interpret any results; we merely determine whether a substance found through a drug screening is present on the affiliate’s list of unacceptable substances and advise the affiliate of that fact.

Positive results for any substance must have a viable medical explanation and the student shall have been prescribed treatment by a licensed health care professional. Where positive results do not have a medical explanation, students may be denied admission and may re-apply to the program at a later time.

**Incumbent students:**

- Random drug testing will be required at the student’s expense in the event of
  - A previous positive result
  - Suspicion of substance use/abuse
  - Affiliate policy change
- A positive result upon random drug testing will result in withdrawal from the clinical assignment with commensurate inability to meet the completion requirements of the program.
- At any point, all students may be required to provide fingerprinting through the college’s contracted vendors.