

## **SUBSTANCE TESTING POLICY & PROCEDURES**

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) has implemented a Substance Testing Policy for Health Sciences Division Programs and any future Health Sciences Division Programs as approved, effective July 1, 2006.

The Health Sciences Division utilizes the MGCCC Medical Analysis campus clinics for its substance testing requirements. Students newly entering or progressing in a MGCCC HSD program are required to utilize the campus service for substance testing.

Test results from an outside vendor will not be accepted.

In an effort to minimize an excessive number of student appointments, testing timeframes for each program will be spaced accordingly.

### **Definition of Terms**

- **Abuse of Legal Substances:** Use of an otherwise legal substance to the extent that the substance causes physical, mental or emotional impairment.
- **Chemical Impairment:** Inability to function due to drug or alcohol use.
- **Follow-up Testing:** Substance testing performed at a student's request as a follow-up to a positive substance result. Follow-up testing is only performed on the initial specimen.
- **Illegal Substances:** Drugs which are prohibited by law. Examples include but are not limited to marijuana (aka cannabis, THC), cocaine, LSD, heroin, methamphetamine, PCP, and ecstasy.
- Illegal substances also include use of controlled substances available with a healthcare provider's prescription when used without a prescription. Examples include but are not limited to opiates, benzodiazepines, amphetamines, barbiturates, anesthetics and marijuana.
- **Legal Substances:** Prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and alcohol.
- **Periodic Substance Testing:** Substance testing that is required of all Health Sciences Division students at periodic intervals during enrollment. Hair testing is used to identify substance use within the preceding three months.
- **Positive Substance Test:** Substance test results that indicate the presence of illegal substances in the body or validate the abuse of legal substances.
- **Post-rehabilitation Testing:** Substance testing performed after the student has completed rehabilitation and before applying for a program. Post-rehabilitation testing must be performed by the MGCCC approved Substance Testing Company and have a negative result.
- **Probable Cause Substance Testing:** Substance testing required when a HSD student exhibits cognitive, emotional, or psychomotor symptoms/behaviors that suggest chemical impairment. Urine, blood, hair or saliva specimens may be required for probable cause substance testing.
- **Repeat Substance Testing:** A repeat test required by the HSD Programs when the initial test is unable to be completed.
- **Substance Testing Company:** The substance testing company designated by the HSD Programs and approved by MGCCC to perform the substance testing.
- **Substance Testing Site:** The specific location where the substance testing specimen is collected.

## Policy

**I. STATEMENT.** Health Sciences Division students at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) are strictly prohibited from manufacturing, using, possessing, selling, conveying or distributing any illegal drug or controlled substance in any amount in any manner in the college environment or at a college-sponsored/related activity. Additionally, Health Sciences Division students are prohibited from using any legal drug in a non-prescribed, irresponsible or illegal manner. Use of any substance to the extent that it impairs mental acuity or physical dexterity is strictly prohibited, especially in the classroom, lab, and clinical settings even if the student has a prescription for the substance. The Health Sciences Division Programs have a zero tolerance of illegal substance use/abuse and misuse of legal substances.

## II. PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. To insure a drug-free workplace and learning environment, Health Sciences Division students are required to submit to laboratory examination of either urine, hair, blood or saliva testing prior to program admission, periodically, randomly, and for probable cause. Substance Testing will be performed by an authorized substance testing company designated by the Health Sciences Division Programs as approved by MGCCC. A positive substance test result for an illegal substance or an unsubstantiated prescription drug, refusal to undergo substance testing, failure to provide a required specimen, or deliberately interfering with the substance testing procedure results in immediate dismissal from the HSD program.

B. Information concerning a student's substance test is confidential. Positive test results will be released only to authorized individuals with a need to know. For students who hold a current license or certification, the licensing or certifying agency will be notified of any positive test result. Substance test results for Health Sciences Division students will be securely maintained under the supervision of the Dean for Health Sciences Division.

C. Students with a positive substance test may request a follow-up test performed by the college's designated substance testing company. The student must make request for a follow-up test in writing within 24 hours of receiving notification of the positive test results. Follow-up testing is only performed on the initial specimen. Written notification is given to the campus Nursing Department Chairperson for Nursing students and to the Allied Health Department Chairperson for Allied Health students. Students who test positive for prescription drugs must provide acceptable documentation of the prescription within one working day of the day the student is notified of the positive test. Students cannot attend class or clinical/lab until acceptable documentation of the prescription is provided.

D. The student is responsible for the cost of all substance testing.

E. A student who has been dismissed from a HSD Program one time due to a positive substance test is eligible for consideration to re-enter the program. Please see *Substance Testing Policy and Procedures for Health Sciences Division Programs* for

information on criteria for consideration to re-enter the program. A second dismissal from an HSD Program due to a positive substance test will result in permanent dismissal from the program with no opportunity for future admission to any MGCCC HSD Program or health-related continuing education program.

F. In accordance with the MGCCC HSD Program admission requirements, each prospective student must submit required Health Forms, which include the student's medications, prior to enrollment in the first class.

G. Throughout enrollment in an HSD Program, students must report any additional medications that will alter their cognitive, emotional, or psychomotor functioning to their instructor.

H. Periodic Testing is defined as an annual, semester or other defined period of time as determined by the administration whereby, upon notification, all or individual Health Sciences Division students will go to the designated substance testing site on the scheduled date and time and provide the required hair, urine, blood, and/or saliva specimen. Students are required to show two picture I.D.s at the testing site for identification. One I.D. must be the student's MGCCC picture ID. The second I.D. must be the student's valid driver's license or valid military picture ID.

I. The procedures for probable cause testing will be followed according to the *Substance Testing Policy and Procedures for Health Sciences Division Programs*.

J. Each semester, prior to your official acceptance, progression, or readmission into your program of choice, you are required to submit to a substance testing examination. The testing will be performed by an authorized substance testing company designated by the Health Sciences Division Programs as approved by MGCCC. Directives such as site, date, time and cost will be provided following your official acceptance/progression or program readmission. Detailed information on these procedures may be found in the respective program's handbook.

**Criteria for Consideration to Re-enter the Program:**

The student is responsible for the cost of all substance testing fees including follow-up testing requested by a student after a positive substance test.

A student who has been dismissed from the HSD Program one time due to a positive substance test is eligible for consideration to re-enter the program provided the following criteria are met:

- a. Dismissed at a minimum at least six (6) months from a HSD program due to a positive substance test.
- b. Complete, at the student's expense, a pre-approved substance dependence evaluation and treatment center pre-approved by the MGCCC HSD Department Chair.

- c. Provide an official post rehabilitation letter from the pre-approved treatment facility verifying completion of a healthcare professional drug treatment plan and an official recommendation for consideration for re-entry into the program. The letter must be mailed by the treatment facility directly to the HSD Department Chair.
- d. Provide a negative post-rehabilitation substance test report from the college's designated substance testing company dated within three days of making application to a HSD program.
- e. Meet all requirements for re-entry to the program.

The HSD Programs reserve the right to establish stipulations regarding additional substance testing for students who are readmitted after treatment.

A second dismissal from the HSD Program due to a positive substance test will result in permanent dismissal from the program with no opportunity for future admission to any MGCCC HSD Program or health-related continuing education program.

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