

LAMAR UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
JOANNE GAY DISHMAN SCHOOL OF NURSING

**DRUG & ALCOHOL SCREENING POLICY (PRE-LICENSURE)**

Do **not** get your drug screen without first reading and **carefully** following the instructions.

**Purpose:**

Lamar University has implemented the federally-mandated Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Lamar University (LU) policy prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of illicit drugs or alcohol by students and employees on University property, at any school activities, or while employees are on official duty. All faculty, staff, and students are required to obey the law and to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System and the institutional rules for Lamar University students as well as faculty and staff. Anyone violating these policies is subject to disciplinary action ranging from a warning to expulsion, an arrest or conviction.

<https://www.lamar.edu/students/files/documents/student-engagement/health-center/awareness-and-prevention-policy-notification-letter.pdf>

<https://www.lamar.edu/students/files/documents/student-engagement/health-center/policy-on-alcohol-13.pdf>

**Policy:**

The Lamar University (LU) JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing (SON) adheres to the policies of Lamar University and all practicum facilities with which the School of Nursing is affiliated for student practicum learning experiences. A priority for patient safety has led many practicum facilities and schools of nursing to require mandatory drug screening of all individuals that come in contact with patients. Therefore, the LU SON requires that all students accepted for admission have a negative “clear” urine drug screen prior to enrollment in courses (at the students’ expense).

A student found noncompliant with the LU SON policy on alcohol and other drugs are subject to sanctions commensurate with the offenses and any aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Sanctions that may be imposed against a student are found in the Student Disciplinary Policy detailed in the Student Code of Conduct, which can be found online at

<https://www.lamar.edu/students/academic-support/code-of-conduct.html>

<https://www.lamar.edu/students/files/documents/student-engagement/health-center/policy-on-alcohol-13.pdf>

**Admission Drug Screening:**

Upon acceptance into the LU SON, students must submit to a urine drug screen. Instructions for obtaining the drug screen for admission to the LU SON are found below. Students may not begin coursework until a negative “clear” test report is received. Failure to comply with this requirement will be equivalent to a positive test result and negate the student’s admission status. Students who fail to comply will be removed from the admission cohort and will not be enrolled in nursing courses.

Drug screens may not be completed more than 30 days prior to, nor less than 10 days before the first day of class.

**Explanation of Test Results:**

A negative “clear” urine drug screen is required for full admission and for continuation in the program. **The LU SON does not accept drug screens from non-PreCheck labs without prior approval from the Director of Undergraduate Studies.** Prospective students who do not pass these requirements will not be admitted to the LU SON.

**Suspicion “cause” Drug/Alcohol Screen:**

Students may be asked to submit to a drug or alcohol test anytime throughout the program. If drug and/or alcohol use is suspected as a cause of unsafe or erratic behavior in students at any time, a drug and/or screen may be required (at the student’s expense). Suspicion “cause” testing must be completed within 8 hours. Failure to comply with the request for a suspicion or “cause” drug and/or alcohol test will be treated equivalently to a positive test result.

Substances tested for include but are not limited to: amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), benzodiazepines, barbiturates, methadone, methaqualone, propoxyphene, and ethanol urine; and other substances as may be required by a health care facility at which the student is assigned for a practicum rotation.

## **PreCheck Instructions:**

Pre-registration with PreCheck is required before you go to an approved collection lab.

Drug screens may not be completed more than 30 days prior to, nor less than 10 days before, the first day of class.

### PAY/PRE-REGISTER

1. Go to [www.mystudentcheck.com](http://www.mystudentcheck.com). Start typing Lamar, then select “Lamar University School of Nursing – DS” from the drop-down menu that appears. (It is at the bottom of the list.) Select “Nursing Drug Screen” and check the box for “Drug Test.”
2. Complete all required fields as prompted, then hit *Continue* to enter your payment information. The payment can be securely made online with a credit or debit card. You can also pay by money order, but that will delay the processing of your drug screen until the money order is received by mail at the PreCheck office. All personal and protected health information will be kept confidential.
3. If you pay by credit card, the link to the instructions for pre-registration will be provided at the confirmation page after you complete your order. If you are paying by money order, you will be emailed instructions to obtain your drug screen once payment has been received

### MAKE an APPOINTMENT

1. After you’ve paid and registered for the Drug Screen, you will receive a list of approved collection sites near your location. Collection sites have different policies on setting up appointments for drug screening. For your convenience, PreCheck recommends calling your chosen collection site ahead of time to set up an appointment. It is also your responsibility to pre-register and complete the drug screen at within the timeframe required by the LU SON.
2. For most students, the Electronic Chain of Custody (ECOC) process will register the student to a collection site instantly; however, the location of some students may require PreCheck to mail a paper Chain of Custody Form to get you to a collection site close to your location. We encourage you to pre-register with enough time to allow mailing time if needed. PreCheck will not use your information for any other purposes other than the services ordered. Your credit will not be investigated and your name will not be given out to any businesses

### GOING to the COLLECTION SITE APPOINTMENT

1. Take your lab confirmation form (Electronic Chain of Custody) and picture ID to the collection site at the time of testing. Prior to collection, students have the opportunity but are not required, to disclose the use of prescription medications that may result in a positive test. If the use of prescribed medications results in a positive test, the student is required to obtain written verification from the prescribing provider.
2. Students will provide a urine sample inside the collection facility at the direction of facility staff with a container provided to them. The collection is unobserved, but to be valid, it must meet specimen specifications for color, temperature, and concentration. A student has a three-hour window to produce a valid specimen. If a student is unable to produce a valid specimen within the specified three-hour time-frame (such as from shy bladder, or due to an excessively dilute off-temperature, or contaminated sample), the student will be allowed one additional retesting under direct supervision.
3. If a student is unable to produce a valid specimen on a second attempt, this will result in a “Positive/Not Clear” report. Such students are not allowed to begin or continue in the curriculum and will be subject to the same consequences as any “Positive/Not Clear” result.
4. A diluted positive drug screen will be considered positive. A diluted negative drug screen must be repeated. A second positive or not clear drug test will result in the inability to continue in the nursing program for a minimum of 12 months.
  - a. If a student does not keep a collection appointment or declines to participate, he/she will not be allowed to begin or continue in the nursing program.

- b. Drug screens may not be completed more than 30 days prior to, nor less than 10 days before, the first day of class.

The LU SON will review test results received from PreCheck on a regular basis. PreCheck will maintain the records as part of a secure database. Drug test results will remain separate from the academic record. Positive results will include the name of the drug but will not include quantitative data.

The test results reported by PreCheck are final and not subject to appeal. The test may be repeated at the discretion of the Director of Undergraduate Studies (at the student's expense). Positive test results will be reported to the Assistant Dean of Admissions, Vice President of Student Engagement and Dean of Students for intervention. A positive test result may also lead to disciplinary and/or legal actions. See "The Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness and Prevention Policy Notification Letter", which can be found online at

<https://www.lamar.edu/students/files/documents/student-engagement/health-center/awareness-and-prevention-policy-notification-letter.pdf>

*Approved UNS 4/29/2019, Revised UNS 11/11/2019*