



**Policy Title:**  
Drug Testing

**Policy Identifier:**  
USCSOMC - STA – 1.04

<b>Prepared by:</b> Admissions/Student Affairs	Creation Date: 2018
<b>Reviewed by:</b> MD Program Policy and Procedures Committee	Review Date: 8-16-24
<b>Approved by:</b> MD Program Policy and Procedures Committee	Effective Date: 8-16-24
<b>Category:</b> Student Affairs	

**LCME Standards**

12.3 – Personal Counseling / Well-Being Programs

**Scope**

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia students.

**Policy Statement**

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine is committed to the health and well-being of its student body. It is the ethical responsibility of the University and its members to protect each other from high-risk and excessive use of certain addictive substances, and to assist students who may have substance abuse problems in securing appropriate assistance.

It is well known that drug and alcohol disorders can be detrimental to overall physical and emotional health, as well as to academic and/or professional performance. Therefore, the School of Medicine has adopted the following policy and procedures related to student drug testing and suspected impairment due to drugs or alcohol. For the purposes of this policy any detected substance, legal or not, that might impair functioning in a clinical setting would be considered unsatisfactory for the purpose of a drug screen. This includes marijuana despite its legal status in some states and countries.

**Reason for Policy**

To provide USC School of Medicine Columbia students with clarity on drug testing and suspected impairment due to drugs or alcohol.

**Procedures**

**Mandatory Drug Testing**

Students enrolled in the MD program are required to undergo drug screening prior to matriculation and again in the spring semester of their second year prior to starting third year clinical rotations. Such testing will be paid for by the SOM. Certain clinical sites will also require additional drug testing prior to placement in clinical rotations. If additional drug tests are required, the student will be responsible for the additional testing. Students or matriculants who are taking prescription medication known to cause a



positive test result (such as stimulants for ADHD or sedatives for anxiety) must submit proof of the prescription (a letter from the provider or a current prescription bottle) to the SOM's student health nurse **prior to** submitting a sample for drug screening.

### **Drug or Alcohol Testing (with cause)**

Students are prohibited from reporting to a clinical site under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The School of Medicine, with reasonable suspicion, at the recommendation of any clinical site/faculty member, can require a student who is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol to undergo **immediate and mandatory** alcohol/drug screening. A student found in violation of the policy will be subject to immediate removal from a clinical site and referred to the Counseling Center for an alcohol and drug assessment. A positive drug screen will have a confirmatory follow-up test. Attendance at clinical sites will be denied to students who refuse or fail to provide a sample in a timely fashion for an alcohol/drug screen or who have had an unsatisfactory test. Additionally, students who refuse to submit to a drug screen are subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the SOM and the clinical site, including the possibility of dismissal.

### **Drug Testing Procedures**

A student or matriculant who has a second (confirmatory) unsatisfactory drug test result or has been referred for concerns of impairment will be required to meet with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to develop a behavioral monitoring plan. As part of the plan, the student may be mandated for assessment and treatment. Students may also be advised to take a leave of absence. Upon reinstatement, the student is responsible for abstaining from drugs/alcohol, complying with treatment, and adhering to all academic and professional behavior conduct policies. If the student has not matriculated into the School of Medicine, then the offer of acceptance may be rescinded if circumstances warrant it. Students who are dismissed have the right to due process.

### **Confidentiality**

Student drug test results will be kept along with immunization records by the student health nurse working for the SOM in a safe, secured, locked office.

### **Contacts**

Office of Student Affairs

### **History**

<b>Date of Change</b>	<b>Change</b>
4-1-24	Drafted in new policy template