

Student Vaccination Policy

This policy responds to requirements set forth by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) regarding participating Title IV schools. Specifically HEOA Section 488 (a)(1)(E): amended HEA Section 485(a)(1)(20 U.S.C. 1092(a)(1)): added HEA Section 485(a)(1)(V). HEOA amendment effective August 14, 2008; DCL GEN 08-12, page 96; and provides additional information to the existing request for immunization information on the University's required health history form.

As such, Averett University has followed the guidelines and codes established by the American College Health Association (http://www.ACHA.org/Publications/docs/ACHA_RIPI_April_2014), the Virginia Department of Health (<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+23-7.5>), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>) in establishing this vaccination policy.

The minimum requirements for students enrolling full-time at Averett University are provided below. Additional vaccinations and/or screenings may be required for admission to specific degree programs or to participate in certain activities. On those occasions students will be informed by the appropriate administrator(s) of the program of the necessary steps to take to ensure compliance.

Required Vaccinations

All incoming full-time students, prior to enrolling, must be vaccinated against: Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningococcal Disease, and Hepatitis B. Students must also be fully immunized against Varicella (chicken pox), as well as receive screening for Tuberculosis (TB).

Recommended Vaccinations

In addition to the required immunizations listed above, it is the recommendation of Averett University that students be vaccinated annually for Influenza, and Pneumonia.

Proof of Vaccination

Evidence of vaccinations must be provided by a licensed health professional or health facility, and should include the names of the diseases immunized against, the number of doses given, and the dates when administered.

This information should be submitted with the required health history form.

Exemptions

Students may request to be waived from the immunization requirements on the grounds of religious belief, philosophical beliefs, or for medical reasons. The requirements for waiving based on these grounds are further described below.

Medical Exemption: A statement from a licensed physician must be submitted that states a student's physical condition is such that administration of one or more of the required immunizing agents would be detrimental to his or her health.

Religious Exemption: A request must be made in writing by the student, or a parent/guardian if under 18 years of age, for the religious waiver form. Averett University uses the Commonwealth of Virginia religious waiver form for these purposes. See link to the form in “Resources” section of this document.

Philosophical Exemption: The student, or a parent/guardian if under 18 years of age, must submit in writing a personal statement indicating the reasons why he or she has chosen not to receive the vaccinations. Included in the documentation must be a statement that the individual has read the CDC guidelines on vaccinations and understands the risks and benefits related to vaccinations.

Requests for exemption should be sent to the dean of students office.

Outbreaks and Non-vaccinated Individuals

If there is an outbreak at Averett University any student who is not fully compliant with the immunization requirements may need to receive additional vaccines, leave campus, or be restricted from class attendance for a period of time. If an unvaccinated student is asked to leave campus due to his or her immunization status in the event of a vaccine preventable disease outbreak, Averett University will not be responsible for financial implications as a result. This includes, but is not limited to, travel; missed academic class time; and physician bills, appointments, or treatment.

University Authority Regarding Compliance

In the event a student does not provide documentation of appropriate vaccination or appropriate waivers for non-vaccination, the University reserves the right to place a hold on the student’s account and/or dismiss the student from campus until these requirements are met.

Effective date: 01 June 2014

Resources:

American College Health Association

http://www.ACHA.org/Publications/docs/ACHA_RIPI_April_2014

Virginia Department of Health

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+23-7.5>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>

Commonwealth of Virginia Religious Exemption Form

http://www.vdh.state.va.us/epidemiology/immunization/documents/SchoolRegulations/cre_1.pdf