

## **APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to accepted applicants and currently enrolled pharmacy students in an educational program at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

## **DRUG TESTING**

The University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) will require, as a matter of routine, all matriculating students assigned to an experiential site to submit to a drug test. The student will comply with directions given regarding the designated vendor and any appropriate follow up that may be required. Although variable, most required panels test for: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, cocaine, meperidine, methadone, oxycodone, opiates, phencyclidine, and propoxyphene.

Students will be asked to submit to drug test prior to admission, and at the beginning of each academic year. In addition, any student may be requested to submit to a drug test at random based on concerns of safety in the clinical environment.

Students have the right to review the information reported by the designated vendor for accuracy and completeness and to request that the designated vendor verify that the results of the drug test provided are correct. Prior to making a final determination that may adversely affect the applicant or student, SSPPS will inform the student or applicant of his/her rights, how to contact the designated vendor to challenge the accuracy of the report, and that the designated vendor was not involved in any decisions made by the SSPPS. Students or accepted applicants who do not pass or refuse to submit may be dismissed from the program. Students who do not pass the drug test may be referred to Peer Assistance Services for consultation.

### **1. RATIONALE**

- 1.1 Safety and Well-Being of Patients.** Health care providers are entrusted with the health, safety and welfare of patients; have access to controlled substances and confidential information, and operate in settings that require the exercise of good judgment and ethical behavior. Thus, an assessment of a student's possible impairment that diminishes his/her capacity to function in such a setting is imperative to promote the highest level of integrity in health care services.
- 1.2 Accreditation Standards.** Clinical facilities are increasingly interpreting standards by accreditation agencies, such as Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), to require drug testing for security purposes on individuals who provide services within the facility and especially those who supervise care and render treatment including controlled substances. To facilitate this requirement, educational institutions have agreed to conduct drug testing for students who participate in programs of facilities having such a requirement.

- 1.3 Licensure Issues.** Clinical rotations and introductory pharmacy practice experiences are an essential element in health science curricula. Students who cannot participate in experiential experiences due to revealed illegal use of controlled or illegal substances may be unable to fulfill the requirements of the program. Additionally, many healthcare licensing agencies require individuals to pass a drug test panel as a condition of licensure or employment. Therefore, it is in everyone's interest to resolve these issues, prior to a commitment of resources by the school or the student.
- 1.4 Contractual Obligations.** The SSPPS components are obligated to meet the contractual requirements contained in affiliation agreements between the SSPPS and the various healthcare facilities.
- 1.5 Liability Issues.** Given the current medical liability environment, institutions of higher learning and health care facilities are appropriately attentive to those factors that may adversely affect the security of the clinical environment and thus increase their liability exposure. As a result, schools and health care facilities, both independently and, at times, through legislative mandate, have appropriately sought to enhance their scrutiny of professional and non-professional students involved in patient care activities

## 2. Policy on Marijuana

April 19, 2013

The limited possession and use of marijuana recreationally or for certain medical conditions consistent with the requirements of the Colorado Constitution, is no longer (or will soon be no longer) a crime in the State of Colorado. This circumstance does not apply to University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CU SSPPS) students. It is unacceptable for a CU SSPPS student to be in possession of or use marijuana in any form, be under the influence of or have any detectable levels of marijuana in their system *at any time or location, ever*, during the student's multi-year tenure in the program. Possession or use of marijuana in any amount and in any form is a violation of the school's student ethics and conduct code, technical standards, substance use policy, state law as it applies to the Pharmacy Practice Act including intern licensure, and federal laws including the Controlled Substance Act and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students must also take responsibility for actively avoiding passive or inadvertent exposure to marijuana in any form, e.g., second hand smoke. Any reported observation of marijuana possession or use, positive result associated with a drug test for marijuana, or criminal conviction associated with such, including but not limited to the result of use of marijuana in countries where it is legal or use associated with a medical marijuana card, may be considered a violation of the school's student ethics and conduct code and substance use policies and may result in a student being subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.