

BERKELEY COLLEGE IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Purpose

This policy prescribes student immunization requirements to promote the health and safety of the College community and to comply with applicable laws.

Scope

This policy applies to students taking classes at any Berkeley College location. Students taking classes exclusively online are exempt from immunization requirements.

Additional immunization requirements may be required for Health Studies Students in connection with clinical rotations.

I. Immunization Requirements

A. New Jersey Students

Subject to certain exemptions set forth below, the laws of the State of New Jersey require students (i) under the age of 31 (ii) enrolled in degree programs at New Jersey locations who (iii) have not previously been subject to such requirements during attendance at a primary or secondary school within the State of New Jersey

1. to be immunized against measles, mumps, and rubella (detailed requirements are listed below);
2. to complete and return a form (a) acknowledging their receipt of information the college provides concerning meningitis and vaccination, and (b) indicating whether they have been immunized for meningitis or have elected to forego such immunization (immunization against meningitis is recommended but not required); and
3. who enroll for the first time on or after January 1, 2008 in a Berkeley College degree program and are registering for twelve (12) or more credits (nine (9) or more credits for graduate degree students) to be immunized against Hepatitis B (detailed requirements are listed below).

B. New York Students

Subject to certain exemptions set forth below, the laws of the State of New York require students born on or after January 1, 1957 who are taking six (6) credits or more at New York locations

1. to be immunized against measles, mumps, and rubella; and
2. to complete and return a form (a) acknowledging their receipt of information the college provides concerning meningitis and vaccination, and (b) indicating whether they have been immunized for meningitis or have elected to forego such immunization (immunization against meningitis is recommended but not required for non-resident students).

All students seeking to reside in student housing at the White Plains location must submit proof of actual immunization against meningitis before keys will be issued.

C. Special Requirements Applicable to Certain Health Studies Programs

Certain programs in the School of Health Studies have their own specific immunization requirements. Students enrolled in the **Surgical Technology A.A.S. program** should refer to their respective Student Handbook Supplements for program-specific immunization requirements. Students enrolled in the **Practical Nurse,**

Patient Care Technician, or Surgical Processing Technician certificate programs should refer to their respective Student Handbook Supplements for program-specific immunization requirements.

C. Detailed Requirements

1. **MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)** (Applicable to Students at All Berkeley College Locations)

Measles: Two (2) doses; the first dose must be administered after the age of twelve (12) months; the second dose must be administered after the age of fifteen (15) months and more than thirty (30) days after the first dose.

Mumps: One (1) dose, administered after the age of twelve (12) months.

Rubella: One (1) dose, administered after the age of twelve (12) months.

Note: The MMR combined vaccine counts as one (1) dose of the measles vaccine and satisfies the requirements for mumps and rubella. A second dose of measles vaccine must be administered at least thirty (30) days later.

2. Hepatitis B: (Applicable to Students at New Jersey Locations Only)

Three (3) dose series, taken within prescribed intervals. (Alternatively, the adolescent two (2) dose series is acceptable if administered between the ages of 11-15.)

II. Proof of Compliance

A. Certificate of Immunization

Prior to registering for classes, each student for whom immunization is required by this policy must submit to the Registrar Department a written certificate of immunization signed by a physician or healthcare provider. The certificate must document the student's receipt of two (2) live doses of measles vaccine and one (1) live dose each of mumps and rubella vaccine. For a student attending one of Berkeley College's New Jersey locations (only), the certificate also must document receipt of three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine (or the two (2) dose adolescent series) administered within prescribed time frames.

B. Alternative Proof of Immunity

Serological proof of immunity (a laboratory report reflecting the results of a titer test) or other reliable documentation of the required immunizations (such as a Student Health Record from a previously attended school or military records) may be accepted as adequate proof of immunity.

III. Compliance Required Prior to Registration; Exceptions and Exemptions

Students who fail to satisfy the College's immunization requirements prior to registration will not be permitted to register for classes.

A. Exception for Current and Former Members of the United States Military (Applicable to New York Students Only)

To the extent permitted by law, a current or former member of the United States Military may be permitted to register at a New York location upon demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Registrar that such person has taken appropriate steps to obtain immunization records from the applicable government agency or department. Once received, such records must be submitted to the Registrar Department.

B. Medical Exemptions (Applicable to Students at All Berkeley College Locations)

Subject to acceptance of documentation by the Registrar, a student may be permitted to register upon submission of a written doctor's certificate indicating that immunization is contraindicated for medical reasons. The certificate must state specific medical grounds and the expected duration of the grounds upon which the exemption is sought.

C. Religious Exemptions (Applicable to Students at All Berkeley College Locations)

Subject to acceptance of documentation by the Registrar, a student may be permitted to register upon submission of a certificate from the student stating that immunization would violate the student's sincerely held religious beliefs. A general philosophical or moral exemption to the vaccination shall not be sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds.

Note: Students who qualify for medical or religious exemptions may be permitted to register for class but will not be permitted to occupy the White Plains residence halls without proof of actual immunization against meningitis.

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Registrar

The College Registrar shall administer this policy, maintain related records and comply with applicable reporting requirements. Students for whom immunization is required who attempt to register without proof of immunization or actual immunity shall be informed (1) that such proof is required prior to registration unless the student can document grounds for a medical or religious exemption in accordance with applicable state laws; (2) where the student may obtain required immunizations; and either that (3) (*New York students only*) immunizations may be available free of charge through the Health Department located in the county where either the student resides or the College is located; or (4) (*New Jersey students only*) immunizations against Hepatitis B and Meningitis are available through the College. The Registrar shall have authority to determine the adequacy of documentation submitted under this policy.

B. Student Development and Campus Life

The Student Development and Campus Life Department shall either offer or make arrangements for a licensed third party provider to offer Hepatitis B and Meningitis immunization to New Jersey students at such times and upon such terms as the College may deem appropriate.

V. Emergency Action

In the case of a suspected outbreak of disease on campus or under other comparable circumstances, the College shall have the right to take any emergency action it deems necessary to protect the health and safety of the Berkeley College community. Such action may include cancelling classes, closing or restricting access to facilities, or temporarily barring from campus any student whose immunity to disease has not been documented.