

**Effective Date: January 1, 2019**

**Retired:**

**Revised:**

**Approved by:**

**Maria F. Lima, Ph.D. Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research**

**Subject:** Criminal Background Check and Urine Drug Screen

**PURPOSE:**

**The purpose of this policy is:**

To establish the background check requirements and processes for the Meharry Medical College Physician Assistant Program's students.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

Applicants should consider their substance use and legal history seriously prior to application and matriculation. The MMC PA Program follows the criminal background check policy for the School of Graduate Studies & Research found ([Click Here](#)). Students may additionally be required to complete a background check and/or urine drug screen prior to starting a Structured Clinical Practice Experience course when it is required by the clinical site affiliation agreement. Students are responsible for all expenses related to meeting drug screening, student health requirements and criminal background documentation.

Students who at any point in the program delay or decline to participate in a requested alcohol and/or drug screen will have that action considered equivalent to taking and failing a drug/alcohol screen. Students accepted into the MMC PA Program who answered "no" to questions relating to criminal background in their CASPA application and found to have a subsequent positive criminal background check are likely to be dismissed from the program due to violation of the professionalism policy. In the event of a reported incident, a determination about the applicant's/student's continued progress in the academic program will be made by MMC PA Student Progress Committee.

Students who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor may be denied certification, licensure, employment, credentials, or clinical privileges as a Physician Assistant. Information regarding eligibility may be obtained from the appropriate medical board and students are encouraged to self-refer and explore the potential consequences of their legal and substance use history.

Structured Clinical Practice Experience sites may not permit participation in the clinical experience and the program will place students at an alternate site to the extent possible. Criminal offenses incurred after the student matriculates may result in

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the student's dismissal from the program as determined by the MMC PA Student Progress Committee. If this occurs, tuition and fees will not be refunded.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**PROCEDURE:**

**EXHIBITS:**