

# PharmD Vaccination, Certification & Licensure Requirements

This is an introduction to the vaccination, certification and licensure requirements for the PharmD program to safely engage in patient care activities. Vaccination documentation can take time to find, so get started early. Please be aware that some vaccination series take months to complete. The WSU Health Sciences immunization and health screening policy is stricter than the university's policy. This stricter requirement is to protect vulnerable patient populations during students' clinical experiential learning activities. Please read the [WSU Health Sciences Vaccination Policy](#).

For questions about the PharmD requirements listed below please direct inquiries to Experiential Services at [Pharmacy.ExpSer@wsu.edu](mailto:Pharmacy.ExpSer@wsu.edu) or (509) 358-7510.

## Verifying & Tracking Requirements

The Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has partnered with **CastleBranch** to track these requirements. Incoming students will receive instructions on how to register with CastleBranch (where the documentation will be uploaded) beginning in the spring prior to their first fall semester in the program. Instructions to create a CastleBranch account, as well as notifications about upcoming requirements, will be sent via email to students.

In addition, other paperwork not listed here will be tracked through CastleBranch. These additional documents and applicable deadlines will be listed in your CastleBranch account.

Below you will find a description of each vaccination, certification and licensure requirement, as well as what documentation will be acceptable. Students will upload documentation of these items to their Castle Branch account for verification. CastleBranch will review documentation and validate or decline the documentation. If declined, students will be informed why and will need to resolve the issue and resubmit.

If you are not sure where to find your vaccination history, a good place to start is with your primary care provider or a local/state immunization registry. Try using the tips found [here](#). Keep in mind that many of these are childhood vaccinations that you likely have completed already and will need to contact your current or childhood primary care provider for your records.

## Vaccinations & Immunity Tests

Documentation must include:

- Student's name
- Date administered or date of results
- Facility/lab name and/or providers name

Acceptable documentation for vaccination and immunity tests (titers) includes:

- State immunization records
- Pharmacy documentation
- Immunization summary (must include the date, facility name OR physician signature, OR facility stamp)
- Military documentation
- Lab report with facility name
- Titer lab results must include numerical lab results indicating immunity status

<i>Vaccination</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Acceptable Documentation</i>
<b>HepB Titer</b>	<i>September 15 of first fall term</i>	<p>Titer results for Hepatitis B (HepB) are required to prove immunity to HepB. Results must show you are immune for this requirement to be complete.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If you have not had the HepB vaccine series, you will need to complete it then wait at least 1 month before getting a titer. Most individuals get the HepB vaccination series in childhood to build immunity. If you need to start the HepB series before getting a titer, or have a negative/equivocal titer result, notify <a href="#">Experiential Services</a> so we are aware and can work with you on the timeline.</p>	<p>Positive antibody to HepB surface antigen (Anti-HBs) titer indicating immunity (lab report or physician verification of results required).</p> <p>Titer results must include numerical results indicating immunity. Negative or equivocal results will require further action. Non-responders will be required to submit a doctor's note.</p> <p><b>Acceptable titer type:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Anti-HBs (surface antigen) titer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Unacceptable titer types:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– HepB surface antigen (HBsAg)</li> <li>– Antibody to HepB core antigen (Anti-HBc)</li> <li>– IgM Antibody subclass of anti-HBc (IgM anti-HBc)</li> <li>– Hepatitis B "e" antigen (HBeAg)</li> </ul>
<b>MMR</b>	<i>October 1 of first fall term</i>	<p>The measles, mumps and rubella vaccination are a 2-dose series of live MMR, received on or after the first birthday, separated by 28 days or more. In lieu of the vaccination documentation, students may show proof of immunity with a titer.</p>	<p>Submit one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2 vaccinations</li> <li>– OR Positive antibody titer indicating immunity (lab report or physician verification of results required).</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If submitting titer results it must also include the numerical lab result indicating immunity.</p>
<b>Tdap</b>	<i>October 1 of first fall term</i>	<p>This vaccination is for Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap).</p>	<p>Submit one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A Tdap vaccine administered within the past 10 years,</li> <li>– OR a Tdap vaccine administered (within your lifetime) AND a Td</li> </ul>

			booster administered within the past 10 years.
<b>COVID-19</b>	<i>October 1 of first fall term</i>	There are several acceptable COVID-19 vaccinations available, including 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna) options and one 1-dose option (J & J Janssen Biotech). The Pfizer 2-dose series requires at least 21 days apart between doses, and the Moderna 2-dose series requires at least 28 days between doses. In lieu of the vaccination documentation students may submit a CPPS declination form (available in CastleBranch), this would be appropriate for those seeking a medical exemption through <a href="#">WSU's Cougar Health Services</a> .	Submit documentation of each vaccine dose, the date given, vaccine manufacturer, student name and lot number for approval.  <b>Note:</b> This is a requirement for the <a href="#">Spokane Health Sciences</a> campus. Those seeking a medical exemption should reach out to CPPS <a href="#">Experiential Services</a> .
<b>Varicella</b>	<i>October 1 of first fall term</i>	The varicella vaccine is more commonly known as the chicken pox vaccination. This is a 2-dose series, doses separated by 4-8 weeks. In lieu of the vaccination documentation, students may show proof of immunity with a titer.	Submit one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2 vaccinations</li> <li>– OR Positive antibody titer indicating immunity (lab report or physician verification of results required).</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> If submitting titer results it must also include the numerical lab result indicating immunity.
<b>Flu</b>	October 1 of first fall term	Influenza (Flu): This is required starting the fall of your first term, and annually thereafter.	Documentation of a flu vaccine administered during the flu season (August-March) for that year. Documentation must include the name of the facility where it was administered.
<b>TB</b>	Second semester of first year (spring), and annually thereafter	Tuberculosis (TB) testing to ensure students do not have active or latent TB.  Do not complete this any earlier than requested. Students will receive more information about this during their second term in the program from Experiential Services.	Initially, submit one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– IGRA blood test (Quantiferon or T-Spot)</li> <li>– OR 2-Step skin test (requires 4 appointments).</li> </ul> Annually thereafter, submit one of the following:

- IGRA blood test (QuantiFERON or T-Spot)
- OR 1-Step skin test (requires 2 appointments).

## Certifications & Licensing\*

\*These items must be renewed annually without any lapse.

\*\*Costs listed are subject to change.

Students will receive more information on how to register through CastleBranch for OSHA and HIPAA trainings from Experiential Services in August.

Certification	Deadline	Description	Acceptable Documentation
<b>CPR Certification: AHA BLS</b>	October 1 of first fall term and renewed 2 years thereafter	<p>It is strongly recommended to complete this prior to coming to campus. However, there are training facilities near the Spokane campus. The Yakima campus typically arranges a training that students can sign up for within the first few weeks of classes.</p> <p><a href="#">Find an AHA training center using this link.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Facility near the Spokane Campus.</a></p> <p><b>Note:</b> fee required.</p>	<p>The front AND back of the card must be submitted at the same time and the Holder's Signature line on the back of the card must be signed.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Only an American Heart Association BLS CPR (for health care providers) card will be accepted. Courses from other organizations that state they meet AHA guidelines do not meet the requirement.</p>
<b>Washington Intern License</b>	September 15 of first fall term, valid for 2 years and renewed on student's birthday.	<p>Students receive notification from Student Services regarding when they can apply for this. At a minimum, the application requires your personal information and a fingerprinting/background check.</p> <p>For current requirement or to apply use <a href="#">this link</a>. <b>Note:</b> fee required.</p>	<p>Submit one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A scanned copy of current WA Pharmacy Intern License</li> <li>- OR screenshot of license verification from the state website.</li> </ul> <p>Documentation must include student's name, license number and date of expiration.</p>

**eLearning:  
OSHA &  
HIPAA  
Training**

September 15  
of first fall  
term, and  
annually  
thereafter

Annual eLearning modules are required. This will include Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) training. This training includes modules for bloodborne pathogens, exposure plans, patient and workplace safety, mitigating workplace injury and more.

Once the training is completed students must upload all of the Certificates of Completion to their CastleBranch trackers.

Note: Only the training provided through CastleBranch will be acceptable annually. Wait for instructions from Experiential Services.

**Professional  
Liability  
Insurance**

September 15  
of first fall  
term, and  
annually  
thereafter

*Annual Cost:  
\$15\*\**

Professional liability insurance, or malpractice insurance, is negotiated by WSU for Health Sciences students each year. Students can choose to find alternate coverage, but it must meet certain thresholds. If alternate coverage is chosen please inquire with Experiential Services before purchase.

Order confirmation receipt or certificate of insurance is required that includes the students name, date of purchase, and for external insurance policies the limits of coverage. Students will upload this to CastleBranch.

Information on how to purchase Professional Liability Insurance will be available within CastleBranch.

**National  
Background  
Check**

Students are required to have a national background check as part of their PharmCAS application process. It is also required annually each spring while in the PharmD program.

An annual national background check is required for admissions into the PharmD program; as well as annually thereafter.

- PharmCAS admissions background check (via Certiphi): \$70\*\*
- First-fourth year spring background checks are required via CastleBranch: costs are included in college fees.

**PharmCAS admissions background check:** Only the background check initiated through PharmCAS and run through Certiphi is acceptable.

**WSU required annual background check:** Only the CastleBranch background check is acceptable.

Students will receive more information about this during the first year of the program from Experiential Services.

