

Immunization Frequently Asked Questions for Graduate Students

Why is this required?

Massachusetts public health regulations and college policy require immunization documentation from: 1. all full-time graduate students (full-time status is any graduate student enrolled in nine (9) credits or more in any one semester); 2) all full-time and part-time health science students; and 3) any full-time or part-time student who is on a student or other visa, including international students attending or visiting classes as part of a formal academic visitation or exchange program. These students must provide proof of immunization compliance before the start of classes. In the event of a communicable disease outbreak, students who are not adequately immunized or are without laboratory evidence of immunity must be excluded from school. This policy includes all students with medical or religious exemptions.

What will happen if I don't submit my immunizations?

Failure to comply with Massachusetts Immunization Requirements will result in a hold on your Assumption course registration.

What do I have to do?

There are three ways to meet the requirement; all start with the Assumption College Graduate Studies Required Immunization Form:

1. Complete the form, in English, and have it signed by your health care provider
2. Review the immunization requirements on the Graduate Studies Required Immunization Form and attach a copy of your immunization record (including dates), provided by your health care provider's office, that is either signed or on office letterhead.
3. If you've been a full-time student at another school or enlisted in the military, attach a copy of your immunization record provided by that entity.

As an Online Student, do I need to submit Immunization records?

Yes. Because online students live on campus for a week per academic year, they must submit immunization records. In the event of a communicable disease outbreak, the College must be able to contact those who are at risk.

Who must be tested for tuberculosis?

Some students are more likely to be exposed to or have active Tuberculosis (TB). This is determined by the answers you give to the questions in the TB screening form. If you have a higher risk (indicated by your answer to questions on the form) you need to be tested.

What if I don't have all my immunizations?

If you cannot locate your records, a blood titer test can show your immunity to Measles, Mumps, or Rubella, the Hepatitis B series, and Varicella. Contact your health care provider for further information about blood titer tests. You will need to provide our office with a copy of the lab reports, if they are positive. If you cannot locate a record of your current Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) or Meningitis vaccination you will need to receive a new inoculation.

Is anyone exempt?

All medical exemptions must be verified with a letter from a qualified medical provider. It must specify which immunization(s) cannot be given and the specific condition that prevents the administration of the vaccine. A religious exemption is allowed with submission of a written statement explaining in reasonable detail that immunizations conflict with sincere religious beliefs.

Philosophical exemptions are not allowed by law in Massachusetts, even if signed by a physician. Only medical and religious exemptions are acceptable.

(105 CMR 220.000 and M.G.L. c.76, ss. 15, 15C and 15D).

In the event of an outbreak of any of the vaccine-preventable disease on campus, students who waive immunizations are subject to being excluded from campus and classes until the period of communicability is passed, as described in the Reportable Diseases and Isolation and Quarantine Requirements (105 CMR 300.000). The College will not be responsible for any costs associated with missed classes or exclusion from housing during the period of communicability and no refund will be made by the College.

I've been a student here before. Do I have to fill out the form again?

No. Please contact Assumption College Student Health Services at 508-767-7329 for a copy of your immunization record. However, if your Tdap or Meningitis immunization has expired, another must be obtained.

What's the deadline?

The immunization form should be submitted before your first semester on campus. If you haven't turned it in by the end of the Add/Drop period, a hold will be placed on your record, preventing you from registering for classes.

I faxed my immunization records to Assumption. How do I know if they have been received?

Always be sure to follow up with the Medical Secretary for Graduate Studies to be certain that your records were received. Please call 508-767-7507.

Who will get to see my Immunization Record?

The only staff who will have access to your immunization records are those who need to handle or see it in the context of a public health concern on campus.