

LEHMAN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

Background Check and Drug Testing Policy

Current laws generally permit a state licensing board or agency to deny a license to practice nursing if the applicant has been convicted of a felony or other specific crime. Like many state licensing boards, the Office of the Professions of the New York State Education Department requires that a criminal background check be conducted prior to granting a license to practice nursing.

The Department of Nursing at Lehman College requires a criminal background check and drug testing for admittance into the program as they are preconditions for students to participate in clinical rotations at the training health institutes. The Lehman College Department of Nursing (DON) drug testing and background check policies have been established to meet contractual requirements established by clinical facilities used by the DON for clinical placements of its nursing students.

The need for drug testing policies in health care facilities and health profession education programs is grounded in the evidence on the prevalence of chemical substance abuse and chemical dependency in health care providers. In accordance with standard/requirement of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), students enrolled in any health science program that requires a clinical experience in a hospital or other health care facility must submit to a:

- Level II criminal background check
How to request a criminal background check for clinical rotation:
 - Castlebranch.com (Lehman's Code: **UV33**)
(must first create a myCB account)

- Drug screening test
Drug testing analysis allows for a determination to be made that non-prescribed drugs are being used by the person being tested. Students on prescription medications can identify the drug to the laboratory before testing is done.

- Hospital Corporation of America requirements

The facilities, with which the Nursing program holds clinical contracts, and the Nursing Program, are both committed to protecting the public.

Each clinical training site that requires a criminal background check sets its own standards and procedures. You may have to complete more than one criminal background check during the course of the Nursing program at Lehman College, depending on the number of sites where you are placed and the requirements of each site.

Please note that if a clinical training site determines that a student's participation in its clinical training program would not be in the best interest of the site, based on the results of a criminal background check and drug testing, that student may be denied admission to the training program. The student may be unable to complete his/her course requirements and to continue in the Nursing program. It is important for you to consider this before you enroll in the Nursing program. Lehman College has no obligation to refund your tuition or fees or to otherwise accommodate you in the event you are ineligible to complete your course requirements based on the results of a criminal background check and drug testing, or if you are denied a license to practice nursing.