



# **INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE**

3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, Florida 34981-5596

## **Health Science Division Student Handbook**

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## INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

This is to acknowledge that I have received my personal copy of the Health Science Division Student Handbook; I have read and understand its contents. I agree to abide by its regulations. I understand that this form needs to be submitted to the Program Department Chair prior to the first week of school (during program orientation).

I agree to have my educational, health and background records and social security number (see reverse side) released to professional organizations/healthcare agencies requesting that information as part of placement at any agency.

I agree to have information regarding my attendance and performance released for financial aid purposes.

I understand that I may not participate in any Health Science program until I have all my records; annual physical, health immunizations (Influenza (Flu) vaccine requirements), CPR, health insurance, drug screen and background checks on file in the Health Science Department and that these records must be kept updated, or I could be withdrawn from the program. I also understand that failure to provide the mandatory records can result in the inability to complete program requirements.

I understand that orientation to healthcare facilities is mandatory. Absence for any reason may result in withdrawal from the course.

I understand that information disclosed to me for the patient's privacy is protected by state and federal law. These laws prohibit me from making any disclosure of medical information without the specific written consent of the person to whom such information pertains, or as otherwise permitted by federal, state or local law.

Changes may be made to departmental, division or college policies/regulations at any time. Should a change occur, students will be notified verbally and in writing as to what the change entails and the date it will take effect. Students will be given a copy of the change to keep for their records and one to sign which will be included in their file.

I agree to have my social security number released to clinical facilities when required.

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

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PRINT NAME

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DATE

## NOTIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER COLLECTION AND USAGE

In compliance with Florida Statute 119.071(5), this document serves to notify you of the purpose for the collection and usage of your Social Security number by Indian River State College (IRSC). IRSC collects and uses your Social Security number only if specifically authorized by law to do so or if it is imperative for the performance of its duties and responsibilities as prescribed by law. Specifically, IRSC collects your Social Security number for the following purposes:

### **Student Records Department**

Federal legislation relating to the Hope Tax Credit makes it mandatory that all postsecondary institutions report student Social Security numbers to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This IRS requirement makes it mandatory for colleges to collect the Social Security number of every student. A student may refuse to disclose his or her Social Security number to IRSC, but the IRS is then authorized to fine the student in the amount of \$50.

In addition to the federal reporting requirements, the public school system in Florida uses Social Security numbers as a student identifier (Florida Statutes 1008.386). In a seamless K-20 system it is non-mandatory; however, it is beneficial for postsecondary institutions to have access to the same information for purposes of tracking and assisting students in the smooth transition from one education level to the next. All Social Security numbers are protected by federal regulations Family Educational Rights and Privacy (FERPA).

### **Financial Aid Department**

It is mandatory that the Office of Financial Aid at IRSC requires students to submit their Social Security numbers on various forms in order to correctly identify applicants, match each applicant's Financial Aid record with the student record, and help to coordinate state aid programs with institutional and Federal Aid programs as authorized by Sections 483 and 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

### **Outreach Programs**

Programs such as the Educational Opportunity Program and College Reach-Out Program are youth outreach projects funded by discretionary grants from the United States or Florida Department of Education. As such, each project is required to exclusively serve eligible participants that are citizens or nationals of the United States or permanent residents of the United States. In order to verify a participant's project eligibility, it is mandatory that Social Security numbers are collected and also later used when submitting information for the Annual Performance Reports due to the United States or Florida Department of Education.

### **Workforce Programs**

It is mandatory that these programs use Social Security numbers as identifiers for program enrollment and completion. Also, Social Security numbers are used for entering placement information into either the OSMIS or the Employ Florida Marketplace statewide data collection and reporting system. Because these are performance-based contract programs, it is required that all participants and their program-related activities be recorded in the Florida state system.

### **Continuing Education, IGNITE**

Because of Florida State Board of Education reporting requirements and Department of Business and Professional Regulations reporting requirements, it is mandatory for students who enroll in Continuing Education and/or IGNITE and/or customized-training seminars to submit their Social Security number.

### **State and Federal Reporting**

It is mandatory that the College collects Social Security numbers to periodically report student-employee-level-data to federal and state agencies for research and data collection.

### **Testing**

It is mandatory that the College collects Social Security numbers for the purpose of reporting state and national standardized testing results, including but not limited to: TABE, GED® and CLEP®.

### **Miscellaneous**

It is mandatory to collect Social Security numbers for agency third-party billings, payment collections, state and federal data collection, tracking, benefit processing, tax reporting, identification and verification.

To protect your identity, IRSC will secure your Social Security number from unauthorized access and assign you a unique student identification number. This unique identification number will then be used for all associated employment and educational purposes at IRSC.

The full IRSC Notification of Social Security Number Collection and Usage document can be obtained from Student Success at all IRSC campuses and on the IRSC website at [irsc.edu](http://irsc.edu).

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Indian River State College provides equal employment and educational opportunities to all without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

Adriene B. Jefferson, *Dean of Northwest Center, Equity Officer & Title IX Coordinator*  
IRSC Massey Campus ▪ 3209 Virginia Ave. ▪ Fort Pierce, FL 34981 ▪ 772-462-7156

## PREFACE

The Health Science student is subject to the guidelines and regulations presented in this handbook as well as the policies in the *Indian River State College Student Handbook/Planner*.

The provisions of this publication are not to be construed as a contract between the student and Indian River State College. The College reserves the right to change any provision or requirement when such action will serve the interests of the College or its students. The College further reserves the right to ask a student to withdraw when it considers such action to be in the best interest of the College.

## EA/EO

Indian River State College provides equal employment and educational opportunities to all without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

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Equity Officer & Title IX *Coordinator*  
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## **Part I – Statement of Purpose**

### **Section 1.01 Health Science Division Purpose Statement**

The Health Science Division supports the mission of IRSC by preparing students to function effectively as members of the healthcare team. The Division is committed to advancing healthcare by providing innovative educational programs through excellence in instruction, clinical leadership and service to the healthcare community.

## **Part II - Regulations & Procedures for Health Science Division**

All IRSC Health Science Students are expected to read and be familiar with the IRSC Student Handbook/Planner.

### **Section 2.01 Health Science Statement of Ethics**

A code of ethics indicates a profession's acceptance of the responsibility and trust with which it has been vested by society. Upon entering a healthcare profession, each healthcare professional inherits a measure of both the responsibility and the trust that have accrued to healthcare over the years, as well as the corresponding obligation to adhere to the code of professional conduct and relationships for ethical practice.

Upon entering an Indian River State College Health Science program, each student inherently agrees to accept the responsibility and trust granted to the healthcare profession by society. When a particular behavior is questioned, the student must be able to justify all behavior as ethical. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action which may include dismissal from the program.

### **Section 2.02 Health Science Plagiarism Regulation**

Plagiarism is an act of academic dishonesty. Indian River State College Board Policy Manual 5000 Student Standards of Conduct – Any student who accepts the privilege of enrollment at Indian River State College is deemed to have given his or her consent to adhere to the policies of the College and the laws of the State of Florida. Health Science students are expected to familiarize themselves with the Plagiarism Guide provided by the IRSC Library.

### **Section 2.03 Email/Contact Information**

All students are required to activate and maintain an IRSC RiverMail email account. Emails are to be professionally written with appropriate grammar, punctuation, correct spelling and a signature. The student is required to notify the Program Director and the College of any change in contact information. Students must check their IRSC RiverMail regularly. The College uses RiverMail for all official communication.

## **Section 2.04      Health Science Regulation for Use of Electronics**

Personal cell phone calls or responses to pagers may only be taken while on break from class, labs or clinical unit. Students using cell phones for personal calls of any type or for taking pictures in the classroom, healthcare laboratory or the clinical unit (unless sanctioned by the Program Director) will face disciplinary action which may include permanent dismissal. Electronic devices for reference purposes must be strictly limited to this purpose and must be approved by the agency and clinical instructor (if applicable). Students may be asked to turn off any electronic device or may be prohibited from using an electronic device at the discretion of the facility personnel or clinical instructor while in the clinical setting. Under no circumstances are audio/visual recording devices or cameras to be used in the healthcare setting.

All cell phones, PDAs and any other technical equipment, except for laptop computers, are to be silenced or turned off and kept in a purse or bag under the student's desk. Audio recording devices may be used in the classrooms.

Serious deficiencies may include, but are not limited to, any act or failure to act which results in the following:

- Harm, danger or threat to a patient, student, faculty member, staff member (college or professional practice experience) or any other person
- Damage to or theft of college, clinical or personal property. This includes the removal of documentation containing patient identifying data elements.
- Any act of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, falsification of clinical or hospital records which the student either commits, solicits or assists another to commit
- Any act that will endanger the integrity of the program or harm the relationship between the College and any of its professional practice experience sites
- Unprofessional behavior
- Illegal activity

## **Section 2.05      Health Science Confidentiality Statement**

*PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI)* is information you create or receive in the course of providing treatment or obtaining payment for services while engaged in health science program activities, including: information related to the past, present or future physical and/or mental health or condition of an individual and information in ANY medium—whether spoken, written or electronically stored—including videos, photographs and x-rays. Students are expected to treat all patient information confidentially, whether spoken, written or electronically stored. PHI is protected by federal legislation and provides strong privacy rights and preserves quality healthcare. A violation of these federal regulations can result in discipline, loss of health science student status, fines or imprisonment. If a disclosure of PHI is made willfully and with intent for personal gain, the penalty can be as high as a \$250,000 fine and 10-year imprisonment.

Students will not under any circumstances discuss any client, hospital or staff information outside the confines of the classroom, clinical or post-conference area and/or without the direction and guidance of the respective instructor or other IRSC faculty or department supervisor. It is illegal for students to photocopy, Photographs, videotape, print or electronically transmit any part of the client's chart and/or computerized record. If at any time a student has a concern regarding an occurrence in the healthcare setting, the student is to discuss the concerns with the IRSC faculty. Healthcare agencies may require students to sign an agency confidentiality agreement prior to any experience in that facility.

Failure to maintain confidentiality as outlined in this regulation will result in immediate dismissal from the Health Science program and possible legal proceedings.

## **Section 2.06      Health Science Grading**

Academic standards are those measures by which the faculty of the program determines a student's quality of performance. They are composed of guidelines for advancement in the program as well as the regulations for grading, probation/requested withdrawal and dismissal. The course grading scale is found on the course syllabus.

### **Grading Regulation**

1. Students must achieve a minimum of "C" for the final grade in all Health Science major courses that are required for completion of the program.
2. A student must complete minimal performance standards in laboratory prior to progressing to the next level of academia or performing those skills in a clinical setting.

## **Section 2.07      Health Science Retention Regulation**

Retention of students is a high priority for IRSC, and the College commits significant resources towards these efforts. The faculty believe that education is a growth process, which places responsibility for learning on the individual.

To best prepare for success in a Health Science program, students should utilize all available resources including recommended texts and reference materials, computerized resources, open lab, faculty office hours, the Academic Support Center and other services outlined on the IRSC website under Student (Student Success).

In an effort to assure student success, faculty will discuss remediation with students when it is deemed necessary. Whenever a student experiences academic difficulty, a student conference form is initiated and recommended actions are shared with the student. Students are required to maintain a "C" or better in all Health Science courses and a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Should the student fail the course and wish to apply for reentry, the above considerations will be required, if not already completed. If completed, the student will need to submit a plan to increase his/her chance of success in future courses. The documentation of completion of any recommended remediation and the student's plan for success should be submitted to the Program Director at the same time as the application for readmission. These will be considered when evaluating the student for reentry into the program.

## **Section 2.08      Health Science Probation Regulation**

The Health Science faculty will counsel and place a student on Health Science probation for any of the following reasons including, but not limited to:

1. Failure to follow College, Division and/or Health Science program regulations
2. Unprofessional conduct in classroom and/or healthcare agency
3. Incivility to faculty, peers and/or others
4. Unsatisfactory or marginal performance
5. Inability to function adequately with members of a healthcare team

The student cannot register for practicum/externship/capstone if they are currently on probation unless approved by the Program Director. Repeat episodes and/or frequent infractions of any or all of the examples will result in dismissal from the program.

## **Section 2.09      Health Science Readmission and Dismissal Regulation**

Written request to be readmitted/transferred into the Health Science programs should be addressed to the Program Director. Transfer students will also need to provide a letter from the Director at their current program indicating they are in good standing and are eligible to continue at the current school. The Health Science Program Director, based on the following, will make a decision of a readmission/transfer request:

1. Students who have failed (at IRSC or another institution) by placing the health and safety of patients in jeopardy will not be admitted/readmitted/transferred into a Health Science program.
2. Students requesting to transfer into a program, students who withdraw for personal/health reasons, students who withdraw with an average grade below a "C" or students who have failed or received a "D" in Health Science, general education and/or science related courses will be readmitted/transferred subject to the following:
  - a. Submission of written request for readmission to the Program Director
  - b. Documentation of any required remediation and student's "plan for success"
  - c. Completion of course pre-requisites
  - d. Completion of health requirements, annual physical, current CPR card, updated drug and criminal background check, updated history and physical. (Must be repeated if student is out of the program longer than six months.)
  - e. Documentation of GPA above 2.0 (overall cumulative)
  - f. Readmission is based on space availability.
  - g. Student must meet all program admission criteria.

3. Any student who has not taken Health Science courses for two or more years or who is unable to complete the total program (A.S. or upper division B.S.) within four academic years must re-apply to the program as a new student.
4. Courses eligible for transfer credit in the program must have a minimum grade of “C”, have been completed within the past four years and contain the same information as the parallel course at IRSC.
5. Students may request a grade of “Incomplete” if more than 75% of the course has been completed and an approved hardship is documented with the Program Director. An “I” grade means incomplete work. The student must speak with the instructor immediately and make arrangements to complete the course within one calendar year from the time the “I” was earned. Otherwise, the “I” will convert to an “F”. Incomplete grades are given on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the instructor.

## **Section 2.10      Health Science Complaint Guidelines**

A suggested process for resolving complaints within the Health Science Division is as follows: **A student should always discuss the issues with the involved parties, e.g., Instructor/Program Director and Dean of Health Science.** Academic and disciplinary decisions may be appealed. All IRSC students have the opportunity to request a formal review of their complaint following the “Student Grievance Procedure” outlined in the *IRSC Student Handbook/Planner*.

## **Section 2.11      Health Science Liability, Accident and Health Insurance Regulation**

All students purchase accident and liability insurance as a component of their clinical course registration. The liability policy provides coverage while the student is participating in the activities of the program. The accident policy provides coverage while the student is participating in college-sponsored activities while on the premises designated by, and under the direct supervision of, the College. Accident insurance is not a substitute for health insurance and does not cover illness or disease.

Should an accident or incident occur involving a student or a patient under the care of a student, the student must complete an IRSC Accident/Incident Report form within 24 hours or the next work day. Faculty have several copies of the IRSC Accident/Incident Report form with them at the clinical site at all times. Students are responsible for any expenses related to the student’s treatment for accident or injuries.

Additionally, each agency usually requires the completion of its own accident/ incident form.

## **Liability (Malpractice) and Accident Insurance**

A copy of the liability and accident policy coverage is available to students online at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). Click on **Programs** and then **Health Science Meta Major**. Click any one of the program pages and select **Liability/Accident Insurance Coverage**.

## **Health Insurance**

All students must have health insurance coverage at all times while in the program. If a student does not have independent health insurance coverage, he/she can obtain coverage, at their own expense, through the American Association of Community Colleges. Information can be obtained from the IRSC Health and Wellness Center. Student's must provide the Program Director with proof of insurance prior to entering the program and must have proof of insurance readily available at all times while in the program. Failure to provide immediate proof of health insurance upon request may result in withdrawal from the program.

## **Section 2.12 Health Requirements**

1. Good physical and mental health are required for all healthcare employees; therefore, all health science students must provide assurance that they are in good physical and mental health upon entrance into the program and each year thereafter.
2. The assurance shall be from a licensed physician/A.P.R.N./P.A. who conducts a physical examination and reports his/her findings on the Student Health Record. The physical exam must be dated no earlier than six months prior to the start of the first semester classes. The student's health record is considered valid for one year. All health information must be valid throughout the time student is enrolled in the program.
3. The medical examination tests and immunizations will be conducted at the student's expense.
4. Upon entrance to a Health Science program, the student's health record must verify:
  - a. evidence of a negative tuberculin screen (result valid for one year)
  - b. documentation of two MMR immunizations or a positive rubella titer, rubeola titer and mumps titer
  - c. documentation of all three immunizations and surface antibody test, or positive titer or signed declination for Hepatitis B vaccine
  - d. documentation of two varicella immunizations or a positive varicella titer.
  - e. recommendations for any restriction/limitation of physical activity
  - f. evidence of negative drug screen
  - g. documentation of tetanus immunization within the past seven years

- h. annual flu immunization
5. Proof of negative TB results and American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification must be valid throughout the program. TB results are valid for one year from test date. The CPR expiration date is listed on the CPR card. Students not in compliance with this regulation will be dropped from the roster on the first class day. If a seat is not available once the record is cleared, the student will have to wait until the next semester when there is an available seat.
  6. The IRSC Health Science Division recognizes that a student must be physically and mentally healthy in order to safely participate in a healthcare environment.
    - a. Students who have a change in health status/injury while enrolled in the program will be expected to report the nature of their change in status to their instructor and/or the Program Director. Changes in medical condition and/or medication regimen should be promptly reported in writing to the Health Science Office. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.
    - b. Any student who exhibits symptoms of illness/injury which pose such a threat and/or who is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs may be immediately removed from the classroom/healthcare agency, will be drug tested and if appropriate, referred to their private physician. IRSC regulations will be followed as outlined in the Substance Use/Abuse Regulation.
    - c. After any change in health status that results in absence from class, the student must submit a statement from his/her physician that his/her condition is not detrimental to the safety or health of himself/herself before returning to the program.
    - d. In cases where absences caused by a change in health status interfere with a student's progress, the student will be asked to withdraw from the program and may apply to re-enter the program after resolution of the health problem and submission of an updated health record. (See Readmission Regulation Section 2.09).
  7. Health Science students involved in clinical experiences need to be aware that the risk of contracting an infectious disease is greater for healthcare workers than the general public. Instruction on universal precautions for the control of infectious diseases is included in the curriculum of the clinical programs.

Students who have changes in their health status, who are pregnant, and/or students who are immunocompromised must work closely with their personal physician to assess the risk of participating in patient care/clinical experiences.

## **Section 2.13      Indian River State College Post-Exposure Protocol**

Students who are exposed to infectious body fluids in the clinical area must report to the instructor immediately. If at a clinical site, the healthcare agency will be notified and the agency protocol for such exposure followed. Additionally, a report must also be submitted to the IRSC Health & Wellness Center via the instructor and the College Post Exposure Protocol will be discussed with the student.

In the event of exposure to infectious body fluids occurring either during clinical practicum or classroom practice of medical procedures, the source person and exposed individual will be requested to submit to baseline testing for HBV, HIV, PPD and RPR as appropriate.

Refer to the IRSC website at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). Click **Programs** and then **Health Science Meta Major**. Go to any program pages and select **Post-Exposure Protocol** instructions.

## **Section 2.14      Health Science Background Check Regulation**

Refer to the IRSC website at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). Click **Programs** and then **Health Science Meta Major**. Go to any program page and select **Background Check and Drug Screening**.

## **Section 2.15      Health Science Substance Abuse Regulation**

Refer to the IRSC website at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). Click **Programs** and then **Health Science Meta Major**. Go to any program page and select **Background Check and Drug Screening**.

## **Section 2.16      Health Science Dress Code/Professional Standards**

Unless otherwise directed, students will wear the required uniforms at all times while participating in program classes and activities. Students in any program of study that does not require uniforms will be required to adhere to a minimum dress code. Students may not be allowed into the classroom unless they are properly attired. Failure to follow uniform, dress code, and hygiene regulations may result in student dismissal from class, lab, clinical, or field shifts.

Uniforms must be kept neat, clean, and well-maintained.

Any time the uniform is worn and the student is in the public view, all regulations regarding the wearing of the uniform must be followed.

Generally, uniforms should not be worn at any offsite locations that are not directly associated with the class. Exceptions to this would include travelling to or from class, during lunch breaks for full-day courses, and other times with preapproval from program faculty; however, understand that any time a student is in uniform he/she is representing the program, Health Sciences, and the College and is subject to these rules and regulations, including dismissal from the program. At no time should the uniform be worn into an establishment where the serving and consumption of alcohol is the primary function (i.e., a bar or the bar area of a restaurant. Under **NO** circumstances will the uniform be worn while the wearer is consuming or with individuals who are consuming alcohol, including in a restaurant. **NO** smoking or tobacco



use, including smokeless or electronic nicotine delivery devices, is permitted while in uniform, irrelevant of location.

Good hygiene is essential. Students should be freshly bathed. Use of personal hygiene products is required. Body odor is to be controlled and deodorant used. Teeth should be clean.

Hair should be neat, clean, and worn in a natural style. Hair should be secured off the face and base of the neck. Hair coloring outside of usual and customary colors is unacceptable. Facial hair must be neatly groomed.

Use of conservative makeup is acceptable. Students must avoid excessive use of perfume, cologne, or after-shave due to increasing allergies and the potential they may offend other students/patients.

Fingernails must be clean and trimmed. Nail polish, if worn, must be clear, colorless, and kept in good condition. Fingernails may not exceed ½ inch from fingertips. Artificial nails are not permitted in these areas.

Appropriate hosiery and undergarments must be worn at all times. Undergarments should not be visible.

Overall, clothing should be clean, neat, in good repair, and of appropriate size. Uniforms that become faded must be replaced. Clothing that is soiled, torn, too loose, or too tight may cause the student to be dismissed from class that day.

Students may not wear visible jewelry, including but not limited to body piercings and gauges, except wedding bands and medical bracelets. Wedding bands and medical bracelets must meet safety requirements.

All body art/tattoos must not be visible. Students required to wear uniforms with body art/tattoos on their arms that is not covered by short sleeves, including when arms are raised or extended, must choose the long-sleeve options. Body art/tattoos that cannot be covered by the required uniform or general dress may prohibit a student from participating in program courses.

Students may not wear caps, hats, bandanas, or other head coverings while indoors. Religious head coverings may be acceptable per individual agreement with the Program Director as long as they do not jeopardize student and/or patient safety.

Sunglasses (not including photoreactive, prescription lenses) are not to be worn indoors.

**Specific program dress codes are outlined in the respective handbook for which students are expected to adhere or be dismissed from the program.**

## **Section 2.17      Health Science Student Parking Regulation**

All Health Science student parking their vehicles on campus must display an IRSC parking decal. Decals are available at no charge in the Student Affairs Office.

Parking spaces marked “Reserved” or for “Dental Clinical Patients” are not for student use. Students parking in a “Reserved” space may be ticketed and/or towed by a private towing service.