



WV Invests Grant Program - Drug Screening Policy Effective June 13, 2019

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures that direct the implementation of the mandatory drug screening required for eligibility for the West Virginia Invests Grant Program.

Background

In 2019, the West Virginia Legislature enacted legislation (Enrolled 2019 Senate Bill 1) that established the West Virginia Invests Grant Program. That legislation included specific eligibility criteria and requirements that must be met for participation in the program. A successful drug screening is required for eligibility in the program.

The WV Council for Community and Technical College Education staff must review on an annual basis the drug screening policy and requirements necessary to receive West Virginia Invests Grant Program funds.

Drug Screening Requirements

In order to be eligible for participation in the WV Invests Grant program, within 60 days prior to the beginning of each semester in which funds are received, the student must satisfactorily pass an approved drug screening that is verified by the eligible institution. The student applicant shall be responsible for the actual cost of the drug screening.

All participants in the WV Invests Grant Program shall be screened and must satisfactorily pass (receive a negative result) a drug screening using urinalysis for the use of the following controlled substances prior to the start of each semester in which funds are received:

- Amphetamines
- Cannabinoids/THC

- Cocaine
- Opiates
- Phencyclidine (PCP)
- Benzodiazepines
- Propoxyphene
- Methadone
- Barbiturates
- Synthetic Opiates – Oxycodone, Hydrocodone

The specific drug screening cut-off concentration criteria for the Program are established and reviewed annually by the WV Council for Community and Technical College Education. Specific cut-off information shall be posted on the WV Invests website and listed below:

Cut-Off Concentration for Drug Screening

Initial Test Analyte	Initial Test Cutoff Concentration	Confirmation Test Cutoff Concentration
Amphetamines	1000 ng/ml	500 ng/ml
Cannabinoids/THC	50 ng/ml	15 ng/ml
Cocaine	300 ng/ml	150 ng/ml
Opiates	2000 ng/ml	2000 ng/ml
Phencyclidine (PCP)'	25 ng/ml	25 ng/ml
Benzodiazepines	300 ng/ml	300 ng/ml
Propoxyphene	300 ng/ml	300 ng/ml
Methadone	300 ng/ml	300 ng/ml
Barbiturates	300 ng/ml	300 ng/ml
Oxycodone	100 ng/ml	100 ng/ml
Hydrocodone	300 ng/ml	300 ng/ml

On an initial drug screening, the analysis must report a result below the cutoff concentration as **negative**. If the result is at or above the cutoff concentration, the analysis must also include a confirmation test.

On a confirmation drug screening, the analysis must report a result below the cutoff concentration as **negative** and a result at or above the cutoff concentration as confirmed **positive**.

Students who test positive for any of the above-named controlled substances are not eligible to receive funds from the WV Invests Grant Program for the semester for which they are applying. All parts of the drug screening analysis must be “**negative**” in order to be eligible for WV Invests Grant funding.

Students must submit to drug screening every semester that they wish to be eligible for WV Invests Grant Program funding.

NOTE: If the student is taking a legally prescribed medication that could alter the results of the drug screening, that documentation must be submitted to the provider when the urinalysis specimen is collected. The approved medical provider will adjust the analysis of the test results based upon the prescription information provided.

WV Invests Grant Program has contracted with a specific approved medical agency to provide drug screening for the program. The approved agency is certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services and must employ a full-time, board-certified, Medical Review Officer.

Participants covered by this WV Invests Grant Drug Screening Policy may only complete drug screening at the facilities authorized by this grant program. Results from other agencies or companies will not be accepted. Information on approved medical provider locations and times are posted on the WV Invests website. Any requested exception to this requirement must be submitted in writing to the Director of State Financial Aid Programs.

Drug Screening Results

Prior to submitting to a drug screening, the student must consent to allow the approved medical provider to share the drug screening results as a requirement of the program. That consent must be signed by the time of specimen collection. Students are also required to show photo ID to the provider.

Once the student has completed the drug screening, the approved provider will conduct the analysis and send notification of the drug screening results to the student within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the specimen for negative tests. For positive results, the participant shall be informed within forty-eight (48) hours after additional review of the results by the agency’s Medical Review Officer.

The approved medical provider will submit the testing results to the WV Community and Technical College System (CTCS) Financial Aid Office, or make the data available for secure download, as a CSV data file. Data files must be transferred through an encrypted transfer process, on a schedule and in a format agreed upon by the provider and CTCS.

The data file shall, at a minimum, include the student's unique WV Invests identification number, the testing date, a serial or tracking number assigned by the drug screening provider, and a binary indicator of the test result (negative/positive). The Financial Aid Office will notify the participating higher education institution of each student's eligibility for participation in the WV Invests Grant Program.

In the event the drug screening results are "positive," the student shall not receive WV Invests Grant funding for that semester but may reapply for eligibility for the next semester.

Appeal Process

Students may appeal the results of the drug screening if they believe the analysis was faulty and can provide documentation of such. The appeal must be made within fifteen (15) days of receiving notification of the positive drug screening, to the Director of State Financial Aid Programs. The Director, or his/her designee, may consult with the appeals committee comprised of financial aid staff and shall issue a written decision upholding or reversing the initial decision.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Beginning with the Fall 2019 semester, mandatory drug screening is required for participation in the WV Invests Grant Program.

Who will be tested?

Any student who applies and wishes to be considered for funding through the WV Invests Grant Program must submit to drug screening within 60 days prior to each semester for which they desire to receive grant funding.

How often must I be tested?

The student must be tested prior to every semester that they apply and wish to be considered for WV Invests Grant funding.

When do I get tested?

Students must be tested within sixty days prior to the start of the semester in which they desire to be considered for grant funding.

Are the results confidential?

The results are confidential. The approved medical provider will send the results to the student within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt of the specimen and will also send those results to CTCS Financial Aid Office where the student's eligibility will be determined, and grant funds allocated accordingly.

Where do students go to complete the drug screening?

Facilities, locations, and times will be provided to students via the WVInvests.org website.

Do I need an appointment?

Appointments are not necessary. Walk-ins are welcome.

What do students need to bring to the drug screening facility?

Students must bring a government issued photo ID and must have signed a disclosure consent form. The consent form must include the student's WV Invests student identification number. Failure to provide an accurate identification number may result in invalidation of the drug screening.

Where can I find my WV Invests student identification number?

The WV Invests student identification number is provided on the confirmation page of a WV Invests application. It will also be included on the award letter that the student will receive.

Should I go ahead and take the drug screening right after I apply?

Students should wait to receive an award letter for the WV Invests Grant before taking the drug screening to ensure eligibility and award amount before paying for the drug screening.

What happens to students who are taking legally prescribed medications?

Students taking legally prescribed medications must provide documentation of that prescription at the time of the specimen collection. Additionally, the student should be prepared to discuss any medications with the Medical Review Officer if questions should arise.

What kind of drug screening is used?

Drug screening is conducted through urinalysis. The screening tests for:

- Amphetamines
- Cannabinoids/THC
- Cocaine
- Opiates
- Phencyclidine (PCP)
- Benzodiazepines
- Propoxyphene
- Methadone
- Barbiturates
- Synthetic Opiates – Oxycodone, Hydrocodone

How do students get the results?

The approved medical provider will provide the results to the student via the US Postal Service or electronic submission.

What are the drug screening results?

1. Negative – the student tested negative for controlled substances and will be processed for the WV Invests Program as appropriate.
2. Positive – the student tested positive for controlled substances and will not be processed for WV Invests Grant Program funding for the semester for which the student has applied

What if the student's results are positive?

The student may reapply for the next semester for the WV Invests Grant Program. A new drug screening is required prior to each semester.

If the results are positive, can the student still get other financial aid?

The drug screening results will not impact the student's eligibility for other sources of financial aid for which the student is eligible.

Can I appeal the drug screening results?

Yes, the student may appeal the results of the drug screening, but the student must do so within fifteen (15) days of receiving notification of the positive drug screening. The appeal must be sent to the Director of State Financial Aid Programs and must include documentation to support the claim that the analysis was faulty. The Director, or his/her designee, may consult with the appeals committee comprised of financial aid staff and shall issue a written decision upholding or reversing the initial decision.

What if the student refuses to take the drug screening?

Students who refuse to take the drug screening cannot be considered for funding through the WV Invests Grant Program.

Who pays for the drug screening?

The student must pay for his/her own drug screening.

If another drug screening is required for my academic program, do I have to take another drug screening?

It is up to the academic program administrator or agency partner to decide whether the WV Invests Grant Program required drug screening is adequate or if another drug screening is required.

Do I have to be a WV resident to receive WV Invests funds while I am a student at a WV institution?

WV Invests funding is only available to WV residents. Even though a resident of another state is enrolled at a WV institution, that non-WV resident is not eligible for WV Invests funding. To be eligible for funding, the student must be a US citizen and have resided in West Virginia for a minimum of one year immediately preceding the application for WV Invests grant funding.