



WV Invests Grant Program - Drug Screening Policy Effective Summer 2021

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 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. See, W. Va. Code § 18C-9-5(a)(11).

In 2021, the West Virginia Legislature amended the program requirements to require students to complete one successful drug screening per academic year prior to the first term of enrollment, instead of requiring successful screening prior to the start of each semester. The new requirements also allow students who receive one non-successful drug screening to be eligible for the Program and they must pass a subsequent drug screen before the next term. If a student has a second non-successful drug screening, he or she must complete a drug rehabilitation program as prescribed by the Vice Chancellor for Administration in order to remain eligible for participation in the Program.

Drug Screening Requirements

To be eligible for participation in the WV Invests Grant program, within 60 days prior to the beginning of the first term in which the student is eligible for the academic year and enrolls at least part time, the student must pay for and take an approved drug screening through the approved process. 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 using urinalysis for the use of the following controlled substances:

- Amphetamines
- Cannabinoids/THC2
- Cocaine
- Opiates
- Phencyclidine (PCP)
- Benzodiazepines
- Propoxyphene
- Methadone
- Barbiturates

- Synthetic Opiates – Oxycodone, Hydrocodone

The specific drug screening cutoff concentration criteria for the Program are established and reviewed annually by the Council. Specific cutoff 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 to be considered 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 negative for all the above-named controlled substances will be eligible to receive funds from the WV Invests Grant Program for the academic year for which they are taking the drug screen, so long as the student is otherwise eligible and enrolls at least part time. If the student passes the drug screen (negative results) prior to a term in which the student is eligible but does not enroll at least part time, the student will have to pay for and take another drug screen within the 60 days prior to the next eligible term in which the student plans to enroll at least part time during the academic year.

Students who test positive for any of the above-named controlled substances are eligible to receive funds from the WV Invests Grant Program one time for the semester for which the drug screen was taken, so long as the student is otherwise eligible and enrolls at least part time. The student will be required to pay for and take another drug screen within 60 days prior to the beginning of the next term of eligibility during the academic year. To continue receiving the award, the student must either receive negative results or, if a positive result is received, the student is not eligible to receive funds from the WV Invests Grant program for the semester until they have successfully completed a drug rehabilitation program as prescribed by the Vice Chancellor for Administration and documented with the Council’s Financial Aid Office before the end of the term for which the drug screen was taken.

Students must submit to drug screening 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, the student must submit that documentation 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.

The 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 about 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 with the Council's Financial Aid Office as a requirement of the program. The student must sign that consent 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 Council's Financial Aid Office, or make the data available for secure download, such 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 the Council.

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.

Appeal Process

Students may appeal the results of the drug screening and request the sample be tested again at a cost to the student. 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.