



**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES
POLICY**

POLICY NAME:	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE
RESPONSIBILITY For Development/Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> University Admin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. Chair/ Program Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clinical Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faculty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative Secretary
APPROVED BY:	Faculty
DATE CREATED:	5/17/2013
DATE REVISED:	2/26/2025
REVIEWED: Annually	2/26/2025
SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS:	Incident Report Form DPAS Student and Policy Handbooks DPAS Preceptor Handbook www.OSHA.gov https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00052722.htm
OCCURANCE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As Needed
PURPOSE:	To inform students of written policies addressing student exposure to infections and environmental hazards.
POLICY:	<p>Students interact with patients as a part of their education and will potentially have exposure to infectious diseases. The DPAS will train students in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Administration on Universal Precautions standards on the appropriate methods of handling blood, tissue and bodily fluids and management of communicable diseases. Students must be responsible for taking precautionary measures and employ the precautions with each lab or patient encounter.</p> <p>The Occupational Health and Safety Administration on Universal Precautions standards defines universal precautions as an approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they were known to be infectious for HIV, hepatitis B or C, tuberculosis and other bloodborne pathogens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloodborne Pathogen Standards requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Observation of Universal Precautions to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. ○ Under circumstances in which differentiation between body fluid types is difficult or impossible, all body fluids shall be considered potentially infectious materials. ○ Treat all blood and other potentially infectious materials with appropriate precautions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use gloves, masks, and gowns if blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) exposure is anticipated.

- Use engineering and work practice controls to limit exposure.

Students may also come in contact with environmental hazards; this may include preservative chemicals such as formaldehyde in the labs, latex or other allergens. Women of childbearing years should be apprised of minimizing exposure to infectious diseases, chemical exposures, possible teratogens and exposure to ionizing radiation. It is imperative that proper precautions be practiced when dealing with these potential hazards.

Guidelines for Accidental Exposures

Any accidental exposure in the didactic and clinical phase of the program should be dealt with immediately. The student is financially responsible for costs incurred secondary to infectious and/or environmental hazards. Students are to follow the guidelines as follows:

- Decontaminate first, thoroughly flush exposure site, if hands are exposed thoroughly wash them.
- Immediately report the incident to your faculty or preceptor and office/hospital personnel.
- Seek medical care promptly, per protocol of institution, or at the nearest emergency department.
- Contact the DPAS promptly.
- Provide a thorough and detailed report of the incident on the DPAS Incident Report form.

Any adverse outcomes from exposure to infectious disease or environmental hazard that interferes with student learning will be dealt with on an individual basis and could result in a delay in education or graduation.

The following is a valuable resource should there be a need for counseling and questions on exposure protocol:

The National Clinicians’ Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline (PEPLine) is available 7 days a week, at 1-888-HIV-4911 (hours of availability on the website.) The PEPLine provides expert guidance in managing healthcare worker exposures to HIV and hepatitis B and C. Callers receive immediate postexposure prophylaxis recommendations.

OTHER NOTES: