Overview
The University of Texas at Arlington contracts with clinical agencies to provide experiential learning experiences to graduate nursing students in the MSN Education, MSN Nurse Practitioner, and DNP programs. To ensure student and public safety, UTA has developed minimal health care requirements to which students must adhere, to enter the clinical setting. These requirements are integrated into the affiliation agreement with each clinical agency. This further underscores the need for student compliance with health care requirements.

Policy

1. Vaccine and TB requirements are developed by graduate nursing to comply with CDC guidelines and to meet most clinical agencies requirements.
2. Clinical agencies may develop additional requirements with which graduate nursing students must also comply.
3. Graduate nursing students requesting clearance for a clinical course must comply with graduate nursing’s minimal vaccine and TB screening requirements. Noncompliance will result in the student’s clinical site being denied and their clinical course start date being delayed until the next semester.
4. Graduate nursing students will not be exempt from any clinical health requirement when their respective agency does not require an item which is required by graduate nursing.
5. Graduate nursing recognizes and honors that medical contraindications to vaccines may prevent a student from obtaining one or more vaccines. Any student with a medical contraindication must complete the medical declination waiver, have it signed by their
provider, and submit the completed form in their Castle Branch/Complio tracker account.

6. Graduate nursing recognizes and honors that a student may have an exemption for one or more vaccines for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs. Any student claiming an exemption for reasons of conscience must present a signed and notarized affidavit from the Texas Health and Human Services. This includes students who reside in and outside of Texas.
   a. The process for requesting an affidavit for exemption is found at: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/exemptions.aspx
   b. Upon completion the student must submit the form to their clinical coordinator and upload it to their Castle Branch/Complio tracker account and to their clinical coordinator.

7. Exemptions to vaccines, medical or otherwise, are only good for admission to the university. Students who file a medical declination waiver or exemption for reasons of conscience must still conform with each of their clinical agency’s requirements.

8. Upon verifying that the FERPA release has been completed by the student, the clinical coordinator will notify the student’s clinical agencies that they have filed a medical declination waiver or exemption for reason of conscience. The clinical agency shall be informed of all vaccines which the student has not received and will be asked if they will allow the student into their facility without the respective vaccines.

9. The clinical agency has the final determination on whether a student who has filed a medical declination waiver or exemption for reasons of conscience may complete clinicals in their facility. Should the clinical facility decline to have a student, the self-placement request will be denied. The student will not be allowed to enroll in the clinical course and their degree plan changed to start their clinical course next semester.