

*Welcome to WCU and Your
Student Health Center*



Taking Care of your Health while away from Home in College

The Western Carolina University Health Center (UHC) strives to provide friendly, efficient, and effective healthcare for you while you are a student, and our staff considers us as your primary care provider away from home. The Health Center is located on the upper grounds of campus in the Bird Building and is staffed by a mixture of physicians and physician extenders. The Health Center is available to any university student regardless of payment source. For more information, you may contact the Health Center at 828-227-7640 or by email at cathealth@wcu.edu. Please visit our website at <http://studenthealth.wcu.edu> to find the answers to frequently asked questions regarding student health, and to meet our staff of providers.

The UHC offers daily scheduled appointments for students needing routine medical services as well as walk-in appointments for students needing more urgent care. The center also provides a comprehensive women's health clinic, allergy clinic, immunization services, laboratory services, as well as limited pharmacy services.

There are certain pieces of information that everyone should know regarding his/her own personal health history. Knowing your medical history, including immunization records, allergies, past surgical history, and any past or present medical conditions is important to both you and your health care provider, and is vital to your care as a student/patient at WCU. Your knowledge of your own medical history is used in developing appropriate treatment plans and your continued health.

Urgent Requirements for Enrollment and Class Registration

The UHC is required to obtain two vital pieces of information from each student attending WCU:

1) **Complete Immunization Records**

Each student must provide completed immunization records as required by NC State Law before attending a NC college or university. Those requirements are listed on the Health Center website at: <http://www.wcu.edu/7855.asp>.

2) **Health Insurance Coverage**

Each international student is required to have health insurance coverage while enrolled at WCU. The university in accordance with the University of North Carolina school system offers a student insurance policy administered by Pearce and Pearce through the MedCost network. Participation in that plan is mandatory for your enrollment at WCU. Each international student must enroll in this policy, and the premium for the plan is \$298 per semester. That fee will automatically be charged to your student account, along with your other tuition and fees. To complete your enrollment please visit the enrollment website at <http://www.studentinsurance.com>.

Please respond quickly to these important requirements, Your University Health Center is committed to helping you be successful while a student and to meeting your medical needs while at WCU.

The Health Center's staff looks forward to helping you manage your health needs in the coming years.

Again, welcome to Western!!

Guidelines for Completing Immunization Record

IMPORTANT – The immunization requirements must be met; or according to NC law, you will be withdrawn from classes without credit.

Step 1 – Collect your immunization history

You may use the attached Immunization Record Form to document your immunization history. Please enter as much of your immunization information as possible. This form will require a signature or clinic stamp from your physician or health department.

OR

Other acceptable records of your immunizations may be obtained from of the following:

- High School Records – These may contain some, but not all of your immunization information.
- Previous College or University – **Your immunization records do not transfer automatically. You must request a copy.**
- Personal Shot Records – Must be verified by a doctor’s signature or by a clinic or health department stamp.
- Local Health Department
- Military Records or WHO (World Health Organization) Documents – These records may not contain all of the required immunizations.

Be certain that your Name, Date of Birth, and ID Number appear on each sheet and that all forms are mailed together. The records must be in black ink and the dates of vaccine administration must include the month, day and the year. **Please Keep a Copy for Your Records.**

Step 2 – Determine your specific immunization requirements

The following information is provided for your convenience to aid in determining your individual immunization requirements based upon North Carolina State Law and may differ based upon your date of birth and age.

SECTION A:	College/University Vaccines and Number of Doses Required (For further information: http://www.immunizenc.com/college.htm)				
	DTP or Td ¹	Polio ²	Measles ³	Mumps ⁴	Rubella ⁵
Students 17 years of age and younger	3	3	2	1	1
Students 18 years of age to 50 years of age	3	0	2	1	1
Students 50 years of age and older	3	0	0	0	0

SECTION B:	These vaccines are RECOMMENDED . Some may be required by certain departments. Consult your college or department for specific requirements.
Meningococcal	North Carolina House Bill 825 requires public and private institutions with on-campus residents to provide information about meningococcal disease.
Hepatitis B or Hepatitis A/B	
Human Papillomavirus	HPV recommended for females ages 11 – 26
Varicella	(chicken pox) series of two doses or immunity by positive blood titer
TB (PPD) Skin Test	Required for International Students. May be required by certain academic programs or for students who have recently traveled abroad

SECTION C:	These vaccines are OPTIONAL .
Influenza	Offered yearly, seasonally
Pneumococcal	

Step 3 – Please send your complete information to the Health Center.

Western Carolina University Health Center, 108 Bird Lane, Cullowhee NC 28723

Fax: 828-227-7400 Phone: 828-227-7640

Important Note: You must have complete immunization information before registering for your class schedule. If you need a required immunization that can be obtained during your orientation session or at the Health Center after you arrive at WCU.

- **Footnote ¹** - DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis), DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis), Td (Tetanus, Diphtheria), Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis): 3 doses of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid of which one must have been within the past 10 years. Those individuals enrolling in college or university for the first time on or after July 1, 2008 must have had three doses of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid and a booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine if a tetanus/diphtheria toxoid or tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine has not been administered within the past 10 years.

- **Footnote ²** - An individual attending school who has attained his or her 18th birthday is not required to receive polio vaccine.

- **Footnote ³** - Measles vaccines are not required if any of the following occur: Diagnoses of disease prior to January 1, 1994; An individual who has been documented by serological testing to have a protective antibody titer against measles; or An individual born prior to 1957. An individual who enrolled in college or university for the first time before July 1, 1994 is not required to have a second dose of measles vaccine.

- **Footnote ⁴** - Mumps vaccine is not required if any of the following occur: An individual who has been documented by serological testing to have a protective antibody titer against mumps; An individual born prior to 1957; or Enrolled in college or university for the first time before July 1, 1994. An individual entering college or university prior to July 1, 2008 is not required to receive a second dose of mumps vaccine.

- **Footnote ⁵** - Rubella vaccine is not required if any of the following occur: 50 years of age or older; Enrolled in college or university before February 1, 1989 and after their 30th birthday; An individual who has been documented by serological testing to have a protective antibody titer against rubella.

