



## Policy on International Students and TB Chest X-Ray

*The Graduate School policy on International Students and TB Chest X-Ray* contains the policies and regulations of the Alcorn State University Office of Graduate Studies. This policy has been established by Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and the Graduate Council to ensure consistent standards across Graduate programs.

### **International Students (New, Transfer, and Continuing)**

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose is to comply with IHL Admission Policy for International students relative to communicable disease screening. IHL Policies & Bylaws §605.C - TUBERCULOSIS:

*Proof of test screening for tuberculosis by chest x-ray and interferon gamma release assays (IGRA) performed in the United States prior to the start of classes is required for all international students.*

#### **Procedure for Compliance:**

This policy and procedures establish the guidelines for Tuberculosis testing for all international students in compliance with IHL Policies and Bylaws. All first-time international students must provide proof of TB screening and interferon gamma release assays, IGRA (blood test), performed in the United States that are no older than **six-weeks** prior to arrival to campus. Continuing international students must have evidence of their TB screening as pre-condition to scheduling for or enrolling in classes beginning spring 2016. In either case, under no circumstance shall any international student attend any class(es) or occupy any housing facilities without proof of test screening, in strict compliance with §605.C.

**The only acceptable screenings** for international students are the **chest x-ray and blood test (interferon gamma release assays)**. International students accepted for admission who have not provided appropriate documentation prior to coming must plan arrival in the United States to allow time to conduct the tuberculosis screening. Verification of the screening results must be presented to the Office of Graduate Studies before reporting procedures and SEVIS registration will be completed by the Designated School Official (DSO). Students will receive notification of compliance once test results have been submitted.

A Disclosure notification will be sent to applicants as part of the admission process to apprise them of this requirement and the next steps if they are approved for admission. The chest x-ray must be done in the partnered facility. No x-rays from other facilities will be accepted.

**Testing Process:**

The chest x-ray must be conducted by an authorized and licensed health care provider. Alcorn State University has partnered with the Jefferson Comprehensive Health Center to offer students a discount rate of \$25 to perform the chest x-ray. The cost of the chest x-ray will be incurred by the student and must be in the form of cash, money order, or credit card. This is the only facility which has an agreement with Alcorn State University to offer the discounted rate for the chest x-ray. Test results will be available approximately 3-4 days following the screening.

**Management of Test Results:**

An acceptable test result is “negative”. Laboratory reports must state the findings. Individuals who screen positive will not be admitted. Test results must be submitted in a sealed envelope from the medical provider.