**Parker University OTA program**

**Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening Policy**

The Joint Commission (TJC) has implemented requirements for criminal background checks. Standard HR.1.20 for staff, students and volunteers who work in the same capacity as staff who provide care, treatment, and services at EP 5 states criminal background checks are verified when required by law and regulation and organization policy. ([www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org))

State and/or federal laws through designated agencies regulate health professions. Each agency sets the specific requirements for granting licensure or certification to practice as a healthcare provider. Most agencies have restrictions on eligibility to sit for credentialing examinations and granting licensure or certification to an individual with a criminal record.

The criminal background check will be required, **30 days prior** to attending the clinical component of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program (OTA). Students will be subject to criminal background checks and drug screenings prior to attending any clinical affiliation sites in the program, random drug screening during the clinical rotation, and any time throughout the duration of the program. All background checks include verification of all employment history for the last 7 years.  Therefore all employers must be contacted. The information that will be verified are dates of employment, reason for separation and eligibility for reemployment. Students are required to abide by facility protocols and are responsible for any associated fees. Clinical participation is mandatory to meet degree completion requirements of the OTA program. It is at the discretion of each medical facility with which the program has a clinical affiliation agreement, to implement a standard protocol regarding student admittance for educational purposes.

Once the student has been accepted into the program the clinical affiliates still have to right to refuse the students placement at their facility. **The program does not guarantee student acceptance at a clinical education site.** If for any reason, a student is denied acceptance at a clinical facility and is unable to complete the program based on their criminal background status the student will fail the clinical course, be dismissed from the program and become ineligible for re‐entry to the program.

It is the responsibility of the student to report any changes in the status of their criminal background history to the OTA Program Director immediately. Should the student become involved in criminal activity after program acceptance, the student will be withdrawn from the program. The program and the university will not modify the curriculum for students who have an unsatisfactory criminal background status.

**In the event that a student receives a positive drug screen result, the following actions may occur:**

1. If it is determined the student has breached the Parker University Drug Policy the student will be immediately dismissed from the OTA program and subsequently from the University.

2. The student may request testing at another facility within 24 hours of notification of a positive drug screen result. A second positive drug screen report will result in the student being dismissed from the program and subsequently the University. Medication prescribed to the student by a licensed physician is an exception *(Any additional costs incurred in this process are the sole responsibility of the student).*

*3.* The student may petition for a Student Complaint Policy form from student services which can be obtained from the Director of Student Services during normal business hours. The student must initiate the grievance process within two (2) business days of the alleged occurrence. *(Refer to University catalog grievance policy)*

I have read the Parker University Criminal Background Check & Drug Screening Policy/Waiver and understand my responsibility in the criminal background and drug screening process. Furthermore, I understand that it is my responsibility to report any changes in the status of my criminal background history to the OTA Program Director immediately. Should I become involved in criminal activity after program acceptance, in which the initial criminal background clearance status becomes compromised, I will be withdrawn from the program. The program and the university will **not** modify the curriculum for students who have an unsatisfactory criminal background status.

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*Student Print Name Date*

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*Student Signature Date*