

Proof of Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Required for Spring 2012

Beginning with the Spring 2012 semester, a new Texas state law will require all students entering institutions of higher education to show evidence of receiving a bacterial meningitis vaccination or booster dose during the five year period prior to enrollment and at least 10 days before the first day of the semester. Entering students include those entering college for the first time, transfer students from other colleges and returning or continuing students who have had a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring semester.

The law allows for exceptions for:

- Students 30 years of age or older
- Students who are enrolled only in online or other distance learning courses
- Students who submit an affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States, in which it is stated that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccination required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student
- Students who submit an affidavit signed by the student stating that the student declines the vaccination for bacterial meningitis for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. A conscientious exemption form ("Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunizations for Reasons of Conscience") from the Texas Department of State Health Services must be used. Allow several weeks to submit and have form approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

To get the vaccine, check with your family doctor or local public health department.

Vernon College is awaiting additional details from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to finalize the process for requirement and submission of documented proof of bacterial meningitis vaccination.

Please check our Admissions web page for updated information regarding this new requirement at: <http://www.vernoncollege.edu/Admissions.aspx>