

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and HIV Disease Policy

The staggering implications of this life-threatening disease, AIDS/HIV, are becoming part of our nation's consciousness. Colleges and universities can no longer -afford to take a complacent posture, as they are now forced by circumstances to abandon their fervent hope that AIDS/HIV would not become a campus issue. William Paterson University has made the necessary preparations to protect the rights of both those students who have been exposed to or infected by the AIDS/HIV virus, as well as the noninfected members of the University community. Above all, all members of the University community are expected to display a humane, well-informed reaction to those whose lives have been compromised by being exposed to, or infected by, the virus.

The entire Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)/HIV Disease Policy as published in the Student Handbook:

The Counseling, Health and Wellness Center are a certified rapid HIV testing center and offers free **CONFIDENTIAL** testing to all students. Tests are done by appointment only at 973-720-2360. Although the University may be unaware that infected students may be unreasonably engaged in conduct that threatens the health of others, we will attempt to offer protection to the community at large while still protecting the rights of the person with HIV.

Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against individual(s) with disabilities. No qualified student with disabilities at William Paterson University is to be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activities of the college community.

The knowledge that a given individual is carrying HIV could have such a profound and possibly irrational effect upon the recipient of this information who then might take steps that could easily compromise the campus life of the individual in question. The likelihood is that such information could not legally be placed in any nonmedical files without the expressed written permission of the student, according to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. This Act would probably apply to any verbal communication as well, and thus confidentiality must extend to faculty, administrators, other students, and even partners.

The diagnosis of HIV or AIDS can be made by any appropriately trained medical provider and will then be reported to the New Jersey State Department of Health in accordance with state laws. The hospital or the student may report back the results of such testing, which are confidential, as part of the student health record. Often, a student would continue outside health care and not report to the Student Health Service. Education and counseling are available through the Counseling Center and the Health and Wellness Center when requested.