

FWA HB699

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Hello, my name is Andrew Arnold and I attend Salisbury University. This past year I have encountered discrimination based on my vaccination status. Throughout the entirety of the fall semester in 2021, I was required to get tested twice weekly because I did not receive the COVID19 vaccine. I had a few occasions where I was unable to make it to testing which resulted in me being obstructed from attending classes. This was very inconvenient and negatively impacted my grades.

Additionally, I had been reported as having been "in contact" with people who tested positive, which also resulted in my blockage from campus. Most of my professors were willing to work with me, but one professor who was also my advisor was not. He wanted to know why I had been asked to quarantine after testing negative, wanted a copy of the email from campus health, and most egregiously, asked me if he had been vaccinated. I politely replied and did not answer if I was vaccinated. Again, the professor said, "you did not answer my question if you are vaccinated". This professor had also sent a letter earlier in the summer to anyone registered for his class who had not submitted their vaccination status to the school. In this letter, he encouraged us to get the shot, stating how safe it was from his personal experience and how wonderful it would be to get back to normal in the fall. He included an article for those "that for some reason might still be hesitating". The article was titled, "'I'm sorry, but it's too late': Alabama doctor on treating unvaccinated, dying COVID patients - al.com

The "campus health" policies at my school specifically targeted the unvaccinated by requiring consistent testing and making us endure much longer "quarantines". The students here have consistently had the vaccinations pushed on them by faculty and staff in person and through daily emails.

I finally ended up leaving the University after the fall semester of my junior year because of how I was treated as a student who did not receive the vaccine. After a semester taking an online class somewhere else yet still paying for housing during the Spring semester (due to the contract), I saw the covid policies getting dropped by the new President including mandates and testing. I decided to return to Salisbury and finish my degree. I am now behind and have had to put out thousands of dollars in housing and classes due to this school's discrimination against students like me because of my religious exemption.