

Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program and the Drug-Free Workplace and Campus Program

Revised: August 26, 2025

Standards of Conduct

The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol on the campus of South University or in facilities controlled by the South University are prohibited by college regulations and are incompatible with the South University goal of providing a healthy educational environment for students, faculty, staff and guests. The following information is provided in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989.

Effects of Drugs and Alcohol

Although individuals often use drugs and alcohol to achieve a variety of effects on mind and body that are found to be temporarily useful or pleasurable, drugs can be highly addictive and injurious. A person can pay a price in terms of his or her physical, emotional, and social health.

This price can be paid in a number of ways. The risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, is increased through unwanted or unprotected sex when one is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Drugs can be the trigger for violent crime. Economic and legal problems usually follow directly when one tries to support a drug habit by resorting to crime. The dependence, illness, loss of job, and loss of family or friends that can result from drug or alcohol use and abuse can be tragic.

In keeping with the mission of South University and the requirements of state and federal law, South University has adopted this program to ensure a drug-free campus and workplace and to prevent the use of controlled substances and the abuse of alcohol.

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Alcohol

Short Term Risks:

- Increased risks of accidents and injuries
- Alcohol-related traffic accidents (the leading cause of death for teens)
- Alcohol slows reaction time, decreases muscle coordination, and impairs vision
- Fatal overdose
- Unconsciousness or blackout
- Death by aspiration of vomit
- Nausea
- Gastritis

Long-Term Risks:

- Increased blood pressure
- Increased risk of heart attack
- Brain damage resulting in permanent psychosis
- Cancer of the mouth, esophagus or stomach
- Liver damage (cirrhosis, alcohol hepatitis, cancer)
- Ulcers and Gastritis
- Pancreatitis
- Birth defects
- In males--testicular atrophy and breast enlargement
- In females--increased risk of breast cancer
- Prolonged, excessive drinking can shorten life span by ten to twelve years.

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Drugs

Amphetamines (Speed, Uppers):

- Malnutrition
- Hallucinations
- Dependence, psychological and sometimes physical

Deliriums (Aerosols, Lighter Fluid, Paint Thinner):

- Permanent damage to lungs, brain, liver, bone marrow
- Loss of coordination, confusion, hallucinations
- Overdose causing convulsions, death

Depressants (Barbiturates, Tranquilizers, Methaqualone):

- Confusion, depression, loss of coordination
- Dependence, physical and psychological
- Coma, death (caused by overdose)
- Can be lethal when combined with alcohol

Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, DMT, STP, Mescaline):

- Hallucinations, panic, irrational behaviors (which can lead to increased risk of accidents, injuries)
- Tolerance overdose leading to convulsions, coma, death
- Possible birth defects in children of LSD users

Intravenous Drug Use:

- Places one at risk for HIV infection (the virus causing AIDS) when needles are shared

Marijuana and Hashish:

- Chronic bronchitis
- Decreased vital capacity
- Increased risk of lung cancer
- In men lower levels of testosterone and increase in abnormal sperm count

Stimulants (Cocaine):

- Painful nosebleeds and nasal erosion
- Intense "downs" that result in physical and/or emotional discomfort
- Tolerance and physical dependence can develop

Narcotics (Heroin, Morphine, Codeine, Opium):

- Malnutrition
- Hepatitis
- Loss of judgment and self-control leading to increased risk of accidents, injuries
- Dependence
- Overdose leading to convulsions, coma, death

Sanctions

School Sanctions

South University, in all of its actions, seeks to uphold local, state and federal laws. Insofar as permitted by these laws, South University will apply sanctions that could lead to a student being suspended or expelled or an employee being disciplined, suspended or dismissed for violation of the South University standards of conduct. Students and employees may also be referred for prosecution. Disciplinary sanctions may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program, at the student's or employee's expense, if necessary.

State Sanctions

Penalties for Alcohol – Georgia

Under Georgia law:

- No person knowingly, directly or through another person, shall furnish, cause to be furnished, or permit any person in such person's employ to furnish any alcoholic beverage to any person under 21 years of age;
 - No person under 21 years of age shall purchase, attempt to purchase, or knowingly possess any alcoholic beverage;
 - No person under 21 years of age shall misrepresent such person's age in any manner whatever for the purpose of obtaining illegally any alcoholic beverage;
 - No person knowingly or intentionally shall act as an agent to purchase or acquire any alcoholic beverage for or on behalf of a person under 21 years of age; or
 - No person under 21 years of age shall misrepresent his or her identity or use any false identification for the purpose of purchasing or obtaining any alcoholic beverage.
1. Alcohol possession and selling violations
 - a. Under 21 years of age – First Offense
 - i. Up to 6 months imprisonment
 - ii. Up to \$300 fine
 - iii. Probation and/or Community Service
 - b. Providing to Under 21 – First Offense
 - i. Up to 6 months imprisonment
 - ii. Up to \$300 fine
 - iii. Probation and/or Community Service
 2. Driving under the influence - Age 21 or Over – First Offense
 - a. Ten days to one year imprisonment
 - b. \$300 to \$1000 fine
 - c. Possible suspension of license
 - d. Perform no less than 40 hours of community service
 - e. No less than 20 hours if BAC less than 0.08 at time of offense
 3. Open-container
 - a. Fine not to exceed \$200

Penalties for Drugs – Georgia

Possession of less than one ounce of marijuana is a misdemeanor under O.C.G.A. § 16-13-2(b), punishable by a term of incarceration of not more than 12 months or a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or both, or public works not to exceed 12 months. Possession of more than 1 ounce is a felony, punishable by a term of incarceration of between 1 and 10 years.

Possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, or sale, delivery or distribution, depending on the quantity of marijuana, is a felony punishable by a term of incarceration of between one and 30 years, and fines between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000. O.C.G.A. § 16-13-30(j).

Drugs and narcotics that are illegal or only legal to possess with a lawful prescription are controlled substances. Georgia law classifies them into 5 Schedules. O.C.G.A. § 16-13-24. Schedule I drugs (for example, heroin, LSD, mushrooms, ecstasy) are those that are

considered to be the most dangerous and having no medicinal value. Schedule II drugs (for example, cocaine, methamphetamine, Hydrocodone, opium, and Codeine, etc.) are those that are restricted to medical purposes and require a prescription. Schedule III (steroids), Schedule IV (Xanax and Valium), and Schedule V drugs are those that must be lawfully prescribed and have varying potential for abuse.

Unlawful possession of any Schedule I Controlled Substance, Schedule II narcotic, or Schedule II non-narcotic is felony punishable by a term of incarceration of 2 to 30 years, depending on the quantity. Unlawful possession of Schedule III, IV or V controlled substance is a felony and punishable by a 1 to 5 year term of incarceration.

Unlawful sale/distribution of any Schedule I or II Controlled Substance is a felony punishable by a term of incarceration of one to 30 years in prison, depending on quantity. Sale of any Schedule III, IV or V Controlled Substance is a felony punishable by one to ten years in prison, depending on quantity.

Federal Sanctions

Federal penalties and sanctions for illegal possession of a controlled substance include the following: **First conviction:** up to 1 year in prison, fine of \$1,000 to \$100,000, or both **Second conviction:** at least 15 days and up to 2 years imprisonment, \$2,500 to \$250,000 fine, or both **After two drug convictions:** at least 90 days and up to 3 years in prison, \$5,000 to \$250,000 fine, or both. Special federal sentencing provisions for possession of crack cocaine include a mandatory prison term of at least 5 years and up to 20 years, fine of up to \$250,000, or both, for a first conviction if the amount of crack exceeds 5 grams, for a second conviction if amount exceeds 3 grams, and for a third or subsequent conviction if the amount exceeds 1 gram.

Additional federal sanctions may also apply including forfeiture of vehicles used to transport controlled substances, denial of federal benefits including student loans, grants, and contracts and denial or revocation of certain federal licenses and benefits (exhibit A).

Exhibit A:

FEDERAL TRAFFICKING PENALTIES

| DRUG/SCHEDULE | QUANTITY | PENALTIES | QUANTITY | PENALTIES |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cocaine (Schedule II) | 500–4999 grams mixture | <p>First Offense: Not less than 5 yrs, and not more than 40 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 10 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.</p> | 5 kgs or more mixture | <p>First Offense: Not less than 10 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 20 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.</p> <p>2 or More Prior Offenses: Life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.</p> |
| Cocaine Base (Schedule II) | 28–279 grams mixture | | 280 grams or more mixture | |
| Fentanyl (Schedule II) | 40–399 grams mixture | | 400 grams or more mixture | |
| Fentanyl Analogue (Schedule I) | 10–99 grams mixture | | 100 grams or more mixture | |
| Heroin (Schedule I) | 100–999 grams mixture | | 1 kg or more mixture | |
| LSD (Schedule I) | 1–9 grams mixture | | 10 grams or more mixture | |
| Methamphetamine (Schedule II) | 5–49 grams pure or 50–499 grams mixture | | 50 grams or more pure or 500 grams or more mixture | |
| PCP (Schedule II) | 10–99 grams pure or 100–999 grams mixture | | 100 gm or more pure or 1 kg or more mixture | |
| PENALTIES | | | | |
| Other Schedule I & II drugs (and any drug product containing Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid) | Any amount | <p>First Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 yrs, or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if not an individual.</p> | | |
| Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV) | 1 gram | | | |
| Other Schedule III drugs | Any amount | <p>First Offense: Not more than 10 years. If death or serious injury, not more than 15 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2.5 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not more than 30 yrs. Fine not more than \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.</p> | | |
| All other Schedule IV drugs | Any amount | <p>First Offense: Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000 if an individual, \$1 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than an individual.</p> | | |
| Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV) | Other than 1 gram or more | | | |
| All Schedule V drugs | Any amount | <p>First Offense: Not more than 1 yr. Fine not more than \$100,000 if an individual, \$250,000 if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 4 yrs. Fine not more than \$200,000 if an individual, \$500,000 if not an individual.</p> | | |

FEDERAL TRAFFICKING PENALTIES MARIJUANA

| DRUG | QUANTITY | 1st OFFENSE | 2nd OFFENSE * |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Marijuana (Schedule I) | 1,000 kg or more marijuana mixture; or 1,000 or more marijuana plants | Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine not more than life. Fine not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if other than an individual. | Not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if other than an individual. |
| Marijuana (Schedule I) | 100 kg to 999 kg marijuana mixture; or 100 to 999 marijuana plants | Not less than 5 yrs. or more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine not more than life. Fine not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if other than an individual. | Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if other than an individual. |
| Marijuana (Schedule I) | More than 10 kgs hashish; 50 to 99 kg marijuana mixture More than 1 kg of hashish oil; 50 to 99 marijuana plants | Not less than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if other than an individual. | Not less than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if other than an individual. |
| Marijuana (Schedule I) | Less than 50 kilograms marijuana (but does not include 50 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight) marijuana plants; | Not less than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000, \$1 million if other than an individual | Not less than 10 yrs. Fine \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than individual |
| Hashish (Schedule I) | 10 kg or less | | |
| Hashish Oil (Schedule I) | 1 kg or less | | |

*The minimum sentence for a violation after two or more prior convictions for a felony drug offense have become final is a mandatory term of life imprisonment without release and a fine up to \$20 million if an individual and \$75 million if other than an individual.

Convictions for Drug-Related Offenses

Any student convicted of any drug-related criminal statute must notify the Dean of Student Affairs, in writing, no later than five (5) days after such conviction regardless of where the offense occurred. This is because under state laws, any student convicted of a drug-related felony offense must be denied all state assistance, including Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant, Georgia Hope Scholarship. However, a criminal conviction shall not be necessary to find that a student has violated these standards of conduct, and the South University need not, and ordinarily will not, defer its own actions and sanctions pending the outcome of any criminal proceeding.

Danger Signals Indicating a Drug or Alcohol Problem

Following is a listing of classic danger signals that may indicate the presence of a drug or alcohol problem:

- abrupt changes in mood or attitude
- decreased efficiency at work or at school
- frequent absences, tardiness, and/or early departures
- relationship problems with family, friends, and co-workers
- unusual outbursts of anger and hostility
- social withdrawal

Counseling

If you observe any of these changes in yourself or another student, you are encouraged to talk with a Counselor. Students of South University have access to our student assistance program, Be Well at South University, for counseling needs 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. You can access the service by calling 833-434-1217 or via [application](#), Telehealth, or in-person counseling sessions with a local provider. These are available to you regardless of location, and no insurance is necessary.

Abuse of alcohol or drugs can lead to dependency and addiction, with serious consequences for personal health and overall quality of life. There are drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation facilities available in our area where students and employees may seek advice and treatment. The College Counselor can refer you to one that meets your needs.

Area Resources

There are also organizations that may be contacted for help. By dialing 2-1-1, The United Way of Greater Atlanta provide services and resources to connect people to the assistance they need to address every day challenges of living as well as those that develop during times of emergencies. The National Institute on Drug Abuse Hotline (1.800.662.4357) is available from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Monday through Friday and from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on weekends.

A list of emergency resources are available from the Student Services Office.