

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICIES

SouthUniversitySM
Established 1899

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In keeping with section 120(a) through (d) of The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, including the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226), a “Drug Free Schools and Campuses” publication, the Drug Prevention Policy, is provided to all students, faculty and staff of South University annually.

Pursuant to federal and state drug laws, students are prohibited from the unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, sale or use of illicit/illegal drugs. South University prohibits underage drinking. This prohibition applies while on the property of the school or when participating in any institutional activity. Students or employees who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, expulsion from school or termination of employment.

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 Argosy University and the requirements of state and federal law, Argosy University has adopted this policy 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

Ethyl alcohol, the form of alcohol found in beer, wine, and liquor, is a psychoactive drug as powerful as even the most notorious drugs. It is classified as a depressant and is capable of producing a general reversible depression of the central nervous system.

Approximately one in ten people will find it difficult to control consumption, will have continuing problems associated with its use, and will develop the disease alcoholism. Even those who do not eventually develop alcoholism can experience and/or cause considerable harm to themselves, others, and the community. Those individuals with a family history of chemical dependency face a significantly higher chance of developing alcoholism or other forms of drug addiction.

Low doses of alcohol significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to safely operate a motor vehicle. Moderate to high doses cause marked impairments in higher mental functions and alter a person’s ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depressions and death.

HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF DRUGS

Cannabis (Marijuana, Hashish). The use of marijuana may impair or reduce short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, and reduce coordination and energy level. Users often have a lowered immune system and an increased risk of lung cancer. The active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is stored in the fatty tissues of the brain and reproductive system for a minimum of 28 to 30 days.

Hallucinogens. Lysergic acid (LSD), mescaline, and psilocybin cause illusions and hallucinations. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, and loss of control. Delayed effects, or flashbacks, can occur even when use has ceased. Phencyclidine (PCP) affects the section of the brain that controls the intellect and keeps instincts in check. Because the drug blocks pain receptors, violent PCP episodes may result in self-inflicted injuries.

Cocaine/Crack. Cocaine users often have a stuffy, runny nose and may have a perforated nasal septum. The immediate effects of cocaine use include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature, followed by depression. Crack, or freebase rock cocaine, is extremely addictive and can cause delirium, hallucinations, blurred vision, severe chest pain, muscle spasms, convulsions, and even death.

Amphetamines. Amphetamines can cause a rapid or irregular heartbeat, tremors, loss of coordination, collapse, and death. Heavy users are prone to irrational acts.

Heroin. Heroin is an opiate drug that causes the body to have diminished pain reactions. The use of heroin can result in coma, or death due to a reduction in heart rate.

GENERAL STATE LAWS

Individuals under 21 may not purchase, accept as a gift, or possess alcoholic beverages on any street or highway or other public place. Consumption by minors is expressly prohibited. Licensees to sell alcoholic beverages are prohibited from selling, giving, or delivering alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21 years of age. It is unlawful for anyone of legal age to purchase or obtain alcoholic beverages and then sell, give, or deliver them to a minor.

FEDERAL

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, \$5,000 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.

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

RESOURCES

Specific programs of counseling or rehabilitation are available in the metropolitan area of each campus. The Student Services Department can provide a list of referral sources to students.