

SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES— STATEMENT TO EMPLOYEES AND
STUDENTS

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act of 1989, the Federal government requires that we explain the legal sanctions regarding alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs, discuss the effects of drug and alcohol use, disciplinary actions to be taken in case of violation, and sources assistance and counseling. Ignoring the act can result in the loss of federal monies to the institution, which impacts everyone.

What is the policy?

At Southern Nazarene University, we have long maintained a policy that the use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs on or off campus is prohibited. Students under the age of 21 must understand that legal sanctions apply for the unlawful possession or distribution of alcohol. For illicit drugs, legal sanctions apply for any age. By SNU's code of conduct, the use of tobacco in any of its forms is not permitted on or off campus.

What is SNU's response?

Students participating in such activities will be involved in a program of education, counseling, probation, suspension and/or dismissal from the university. Students who are concerned about their need for therapeutic treatment in these areas are encouraged to come to the Student Development Office or the Counseling Center for assistance without disciplinary implications (see Amnesty Policy). The Student Development Office and the Counseling Center have established networks with a number of substance abuse treatment programs in central Oklahoma and are able to work with students to make necessary referrals. Outpatient treatment is also available through campus counselors. Informational sessions relating to substance abuse will also be offered during the year. Confidential, personal, free counseling sessions are available to students, staff, and faculty at SNU. Phone 491-6335 to make an appointment for a counseling session. All calls are confidential.

What are the effects of alcohol and drug use?

Generally, drugs and alcohol impair how your brain takes in and sort's information. They can distort what you hear, see, and feel. Control of your actions is impaired. Users may feel they are at their best when in reality they are performing poorly. Use can also motivate crime to finance the use and can leave a criminal record behind, which impairs future activities.

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increases the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in high mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with

other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects just described.

Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life-threatening. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver.

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with mental retardation. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than other youngsters of becoming alcoholics. Illegal drugs involve a wide variety of drugs with significant impact to the body. A detailed list of controlled substances and their effects can be found in a document available in the Counseling Center at the Student Development Office. To highlight some of the better known illegal drugs, the following description of effects is offered.

Marijuana (pot, grass, weed, reefer) damages lungs, reproductive organs, slows physical reflexes, alters judgment of space and distance, and promotes forgetfulness.

Cocaine (coke, snow, freebase, crack, rock, ice) in its many forms is damaging to the lungs, immune system, and impacts the heart and lungs. Its euphoric effect can be especially compelling for some and is highly addictive psychologically. A temporary "superhuman" feeling makes for very poor decision-making. Emotional problems and mood swings are frequent symptoms. Depression often follows the euphoria as the person is coming off the drug. Death can result even after only one application.

Heroin (junk, H, horse) is very addictive and withdrawal is difficult and painful. Heroin seems to take over leaving a disinterest in other things including work and relationships. Coma and death can come as a result of over-dose. AIDS and hepatitis can be contracted from sharing contaminated needles and other drug-use items.

Amphetamines (speed, uppers) can be addictive and cause brain damage. It speeds up activity and can push the users beyond their physical abilities. Long-term use can result in amphetamine psychosis.

Sedatives (downers) slow down mental processes and reflexes and can be addictive. Use can cause kidney and liver damage, and death can result from overdose particularly when used with alcohol.

Hallucinogens (PCP, LSC, MDMA, designer drugs) cause hallucinations in which the user sees or hears things that are not in reality. Perceptual distortions can lead to dangerous behavior. Some hallucinogens can cause sudden, bizarre

actions including violent behavior, loss of concentration and memory and behavior problems. Permanent brain function impairment can result from use. Other problematic substances include inhalants such as glues, cleaning fluids, etc., which can harm vision, memory, thinking, and coordination and can cause death. Steroids cause damage to the liver, heart, and reproductive organs and can induce depression and aggression. Tobacco is very addictive and has long term impacts including cancer, heart and lung disease, and complications for pregnancies. It is the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S.

What are the laws concerning alcohol and drug use and possession?

Summary - Legal Sanctions Covering Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Local, state and federal laws make illegal use of drugs and alcohol serious crimes. Conviction can lead to imprisonment, fines, and assigned community service. Courts do not lift prison sentences in order for convicted persons to attend college or continue their jobs. A felony conviction for such an offense can prevent you from entering many fields of employment or professions.

The following information addresses issues most commonly associated with alcohol and drug use:

- **Public consumption of alcohol**
Oklahoma law prohibits consumption of alcohol or any intoxicating substance in any public place and further prohibits drunkenness or intoxication in any public place. Fines and periods of imprisonment are given for violation for this statute.
- **Sale/Delivery of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21**
The sale, delivery or furnishing of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 is prohibited under Oklahoma law. Such an act is considered a felony with a fine ranging from \$2,500-\$5,000 and imprisonment of up to one year for the first offense.
- **Misrepresenting one's age or falsifying an ID to obtain alcoholic beverages**
This misdemeanor is punishable in Oklahoma by a fine of \$50 for the first offense, with a possible suspension of a driver's license up to the time an individual is 21.
- **Driving under the influence**
First conviction of a DWI results in a sentence of up to one-year imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1,000. Subsequent convictions are considered a felony charge resulting in a prison term ranging from one to five years and a fine up to \$5,000, accompanied by a mandatory participation in an alcoholic and drug substance abuse evaluation program.
- **Criminal penalties**
Oklahoma has criminal penalties for use of controlled substances, or drugs, with penalties varying with the type of drug. In general, narcotics and drugs with a

higher potential for abuse have heavier penalties. For example, possession of a narcotic drug such as heroin results in a felony conviction ranging from a period of one year for the first offense and a fine up to \$100,000.

- **Possession of drugs**

Possession of drugs is illegal without valid authorization. While penalties for possession are generally not as great as for manufacture and distribution of drugs, possession of a relatively large quantity may be considered distribution. Under both state and federal law, penalties for possession, manufacture, and distribution are much greater for second and subsequent convictions. Many laws dictate mandatory prison terms and the full minimum term must be served.

- **Sale and possession of drug paraphernalia**

A person convicted of this offense is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of up to one year and a fine of up to \$1,000.

- **Student federal aid and drug related convictions**

Because of the 1998 Anti-Drug Abuse Act, a court or judge may suspend or terminate an individual's eligibility for student financial aid upon conviction of certain drug charges.

- **Distribution of drugs to persons under the age of 21 and to minor children under 18 years.**

- Under federal law, distribution of drugs to persons under age 21 is punishable by twice the normal penalty with a mandatory one-year in prison. These penalties apply to distribution of drugs in or within 1,000 feet of a college.
- In addition, Oklahoma law provides that any person who causes, acts, or encourages a minor child under 18 years of age to have in their possession a controlled substance is guilty of a felony resulting in a prison sentence ranging from two to thirteen years and a fine of up to \$200,000.