

## **University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY**

The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma complies with all federal and state regulations regarding the unlawful manufacture, dispersal, possession, and use of controlled substances. In compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, USAO follows the procedures outlined below:

1. A statement is sent to all faculty, staff, and students informing them that the unlawful manufacture, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited at the university; and specifying the actions that will be taken for violations.
2. A drug-free awareness program to inform faculty, staff, and students about the following information is presented each year: a) dangers of drug abuse in the workplace; b) USAO's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace; c) penalties imposed for drug abuse violations.
3. Each employee applying for a federal grant or contract is notified that as a condition of involvement under the grant, the employee will: a) comply with the provisions in the statement described in paragraph 1; b) notify the University personnel director of any criminal drug conviction for the violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after that conviction.
4. The Human Resource office has the responsibility of notifying the federal funding agency within ten days after receiving notice from an employee or otherwise receiving notice of the conviction.
5. The Human Resource office or Dean of Students will take one of the following actions within thirty days of receiving notice that an employee or student has been convicted of violating the university drug and alcohol policy: a) take appropriate personnel action against such an employee or student up to and including termination or expulsion; or b) require the employee or student to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a federal, state or local health, law enforcement or other appropriate agency.

### **Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Disclosure**

USAO is committed to compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 to reduce drug use, abuse, and illegal conduct. This commitment includes the development, enforcement, and continual evaluation of policy and promotion of awareness to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act requires the University to advise faculty, staff and students of relevant laws pertaining to the illicit manufacture, possession, distribution, and usage of drugs and alcohol. This disclosure includes the penalties for violations of Oklahoma and Federal statutes, the health risks associated with the usage of controlled substances, and associated with the manufacture, possession, distribution, and usage of controlled substances.

USAO prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs (“illicit drug use” is defined as the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of other drugs and alcohol, including anabolic steroids) and alcohol by students and employees in buildings, facilities, grounds, or other property owned and/or controlled by the University or as part of USAO sponsored activities.

In order to meet these responsibilities, University policy:

1. Requires all students to abide by the terms of this policy as a condition of initial and continued enrollment.
2. Recognizes that the illegal use of drugs and alcohol is in direct violation of local, state, and federal laws as well as University policies included in this policy, and the Student Code of Conduct. University policy prohibits the illegal use, possession, manufacture, dispensing or distribution of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances in the workplace, on its premises, or as part of any University sponsored activities.
3. Considers a violation of this policy to be a major offense which can result in a requirement for satisfactory participation in a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program at the individual’s expense, referral for criminal prosecution, and/or immediate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University. A criminal conviction is not required for sanctions to be imposed upon student for violations of this policy.
4. Recognizes that violations of applicable local, state, and federal laws may subject a student to a variety of legal sanctions including, but not limited to, fines, incarceration, imprisonment, and/or community service requirements. Convictions become a part of an individual’s criminal record and may prohibit career and professional opportunities.
5. Prohibits the use of controlled substances which cannot be legally obtained, including:
  - a. Prescribed drugs when prescription is no longer valid (e.g., use of medication after a course of treatment is completed).
  - b. Prescribed drugs used contrary to the prescription.
  - c. Prescribed drugs issued to another person.
6. Prohibits residents and their guests who are under the age of 21 from possessing or consuming alcohol.
  - a. No resident, or their guests, regardless of age, may possess or consume hard alcohol in the residence halls. Hard alcohol is defined as alcohol that is equal to or greater than 15 percent alcohol by volume or 30 proof.
  - b. Residents of the age of 21 or older are permitted to consume alcohol in the presence of those under 21. It is a violation for any resident to provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. It is a violation of housing policy to provide alcohol to anyone regardless of age who is visibly intoxicated. It is a violation of housing policy to be publicly intoxicated in the residence halls.

- c. Students 21 or over who are disruptive because of the use of alcohol may be considered in violation of this policy.
  - d. Open containers of alcohol are not permitted in public or common areas either inside or outside of the residential buildings. Common areas include, but are not limited to, outside entry or adjacent sidewalk areas, all lounges, Lawson Clubhouse, Lawson pool, community kitchens, recreation rooms, entertainment areas, hallways, lobby restrooms, stairways, fire exits, and laundry rooms.
  - e. Residents' entry doors must remain closed while consuming alcohol.
  - f. Any activities that induce, encourage, or result in the rapid consumption of alcohol are prohibited. Items used for drinking games or other activities that encourage the excessive or rapid consumption of alcohol (e.g., keg, beer pong tables, beer bong, funnels, etc.) are prohibited.
  - g. University officials will ask individuals who violate the alcohol policy to dispose of all alcohol in their possession. Students who violate the alcohol policy may be referred for disciplinary action. University officials have discretion to call police.
7. Provides referrals to counseling services for counseling and training programs which inform students about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Voluntary participation in or referral to these services is strictly confidential and shall not, alone, result in disciplinary action.
8. Provides for annual distribution of this policy to student members of the university community.

## **Standards of Conduct and Institutional Sanctions**

Science & Arts is committed to compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, and a campus culture that reduces alcohol and drug use, abuse, and illegal conduct. University policy prohibits the illegal use, possession, manufacture, dispensing or distribution of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances in the workplace, on its premises, or as part of any University sponsored activities except where allowed by policy. The inappropriate use, misuse, or abuse of prescription or over-the counter medications is forbidden. All members of the campus community will also be held accountable by law enforcement representatives of those entities for any illegal drug and/or alcohol activity. It is the responsibility of all campus members to be aware of these laws. Students, faculty, and staff who violate Science & Arts' drug and alcohol policies are simultaneously subject to criminal sanctions provided by federal, state, and local law.

## **Internal Sanctions**

### Students

The violation of this student policy can result in reprimand, conduct probation, removal from residence halls, mandatory treatment, or rehabilitation at the student's own expense, and can result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion from the university.

### Employees

Any employee of the University who has violated this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary

action including, but not limited to, suspension, termination of employment, referral for prosecution and/or completion, at the individual's expense, of an appropriate rehabilitation program.

## **External Sanctions**

Local, state, and federal laws provide for a variety of legal sanctions for the unlawful possession and distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. These sanctions include, but are not limited to, incarceration and monetary fines.

Federal law provides severe penalties for distributing or dispensing or possessing with the intent to distribute or dispense a controlled substance and penalties of a less severe nature for simple possession of a controlled substance. The type and quantity of the drug, whether the convicted person has any prior convictions, and whether death or previous injury resulted from use of the drug in question (this, however, is not a factor in a case of simple possession) all affect the sentence. For example, if less than 50 kilograms of marijuana are involved and it is your first offense (no prior convictions), then you are subject to imprisonment of not more than 5 years, a fine of \$250,000 or both. If however, 50-100 kilograms of marijuana are involved instead of less than 50, and all other factors are the same as in the preceding example, you are subject to imprisonment of not more than 20 years, unless death or serious injury results from the marijuana use, then you are subject to not less than 20 years or life, a fine of \$1,000,000, or both. While the penalties for simple possession are less severe, the first conviction still carries a sentence of up to a year imprisonment, a fine of at least \$1,000 but not more than \$100,000, or both. With regard to simple possession, the number of convictions makes both the minimum period of imprisonment and fines greater. Under special provisions for possession of crack, a person may be sentenced to a mandatory term of at least 5 years in prison and not more than 20 years, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Starting July 1, 2000, conviction under Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance shall make a student ineligible to receive any grant, loan, or work assistance beginning with the date of conviction and ending as follows: (1) conviction for possession of a controlled substance: first offense – one year; second offense – two years; third offense – indefinite (2) sale of a controlled substance: first offense – two years; second offense – indefinite. Students may regain eligibility earlier than specified by satisfactorily completing a rehabilitation program or other requirement as specified in the regulations.

State Law provides similar penalties with regard to the simple possession, distribution, or possession with the intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance. Simple possession of marijuana is a misdemeanor and carries a punishment of up to one year in the county jail. A second or subsequent conviction for simple possession of marijuana carries two – ten years in the state penitentiary. Possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute is a felony and carries a punishment of two years to life in the penitentiary and a fine of up to \$20,000 for the first conviction. A second or subsequent conviction carries a punishment of four years to life in prison and a fine of up to \$40,000. Depending upon the quantity involved, a convicted individual could be sentenced under the Oklahoma "Trafficking in Illegal Drugs Act" which provides for much harsher penalties.

In addition, state law provides that possession of, or possession with intent to consume, 3.2 beer by someone under 21 years old in a public place is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000.00 or by appropriate community service not to exceed 20 hours. Possession of other alcoholic/intoxicating beverages by someone under 21 years old in a public place is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 30 days, a fine not to exceed \$100., or both. There are also state laws concerning driving under the influence of alcohol and using a false driver's license to obtain 3.2 beer or other alcoholic beverages. Depending upon the number of previous convictions or gravity of the circumstances you may be convicted of a felony or misdemeanor for such an offense. It is most likely that you will also forfeit your driving privileges in the event you are convicted of such an offense.

There are also Chickasha city ordinances similar to those described above. If drugs are involved the city will, most likely, defer to the state or federal authorities because their penalties are more severe. If alcohol is involved, you may be convicted of violating both local and state law and punished according to both laws. Courts do not excuse individuals convicted of these offenses from a prison sentence to go to college or work. A conviction for such an offense is a serious blemish on your record which could prevent you from entering many careers or obtaining certain jobs.

The above-referenced examples of penalties and sanctions are based on the relevant laws at the time of adoption of this policy statement. Such laws are, of course, subject to revision or amendment by way of the legislative process.

## **Healthy Environment**

The University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma recognizes its responsibility as an educational and public service institution to promote a healthy and productive environment. Student use of illegal drugs, misuse of prescription and non-prescription medications (as defined by law), and alcohol abuse is a matter of concern to Science & Arts. Science & Arts endeavors to protect and assist students by providing reliable information about the hazards of drugs and alcohol, identifying students at risk for substance use issues and, assisting students in receiving substance abuse treatment when necessary. The University is committed to a program to prevent the abuse of alcohol and the illegal use of drugs by its students.

Health risks associated with alcohol and drug abuse include lowered immune system, damage to nerve cells, physical dependency, psychological dependency, lung damage, heart damage, liver disease, physical and mental depression, increased risk of infection, memory loss, personality changes and thought disorders.

Specific health risks include:

1. Stimulants (speed, uppers, crank, caffeine, ecstasy, etc.) speed up the nervous system which can cause increased heart and breathing rates, higher blood pressure, decreased appetite, headaches, blurred vision, dizziness, sleeplessness, anxiety, hallucinations, paranoia,

depression, convulsions, and death due to stroke or heart failure.

2. Anabolic steroids seriously affect the liver, cardiovascular and reproductive systems. Can cause sterility in males and females, as well as impotency in males.
3. Barbiturates, depressants, benzodiazepines (downers, Quaaludes, Valium, etc.) slow down the central nervous system which can cause decreased heart and breathing rates, lower blood pressure, slow reactions, confusion, distortion of reality, convulsions, respiratory depression, coma, and death. Depressants combined with alcohol can be lethal.
4. Cocaine, crack, ice stimulates the central nervous system and is extremely addictive, both psychologically and physically. Effects include dilated pupils, increased heart rate, elevated blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite, hallucinations, paranoia, seizures, and death due to cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.
5. Hallucinogens (PCP, angel dust, LSD, etc.) interrupts the functions of the part of the brain which control intellect and instincts. May result in self-inflicted injuries, impaired coordination, dulled senses, incoherent speech, depression, anxiety, violent behavior, paranoia, hallucinations, increased heart rate and blood pressure, convulsions, coma and heart and lung failure.
6. Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, hash, etc.) impairs short-term memory, comprehension, coordination, and motivation. May also cause paranoia and psychosis. Marijuana smoke contains more cancer-causing agents than tobacco smoke. The way in which marijuana is smoked, deeply inhaled, and held in the lungs for an extended period, enhances the risk of getting cancer. Combined with alcohol, marijuana can produce a dangerous multiplied effect.
7. Narcotics (heroin, morphine, Demerol, Percodan, etc.) initially produce feelings of euphoria often followed by drowsiness, nausea, and vomiting. An overdose may result in convulsions, coma, and death. Tolerance develops rapidly and dependence is likely. Using contaminated syringes to inject such drugs may result in AIDS.
8. Alcohol causes short-term changes in behavior, impairment of judgment and coordination, greater likelihood of aggressive acts, respiratory depression, irreversible physical and mental abnormalities in newborns (fetal alcohol syndrome) and death. Long-term effects of alcohol abuse include damage to the liver, heart, and brain; ulcers; gastritis; malnutrition; delirium tremors; and cancer. Alcohol combined with other barbiturates/depressants can prove to be a deadly mixture.
9. Tobacco and nicotine cause the death of about 170,000 people in the United States each year from smoking-related coronary heart disease. About 30% of the 130,000 cancer deaths each year are linked to smoking. Lung, larynx, esophagus, bladder, pancreas, and kidney cancers strike smokers at increased rates. Emphysema and chronic bronchitis are ten times more likely among smokers.

Further information concerning health risks may be found in the Student Life area. Individuals should also consult their personal physician about alcohol and drug-related health risks.

## **Medical Marijuana**

It is illegal to use, be under the influence, manufacture, possess, cultivate, distribute purchase, or sell any alcohol and/or drugs (illegal and/or dangerous or controlled substance, including marijuana) and/or any drug paraphernalia while on college owned or college-controlled property, and/or at any function authorized or supervised by the college and/or in state owned or leased vehicles.

Although Oklahoma state law permits the use of medical marijuana, i.e., use by persons possessing lawfully issued medical marijuana cards, federal laws prohibit marijuana use, possession and/or cultivation at educational institutions and on the premises of other recipients of federal funds. The use, possession, or cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes is therefore not allowed in any Science & Arts housing or any other Science & Arts property, nor is it allowed at any University sponsored event or activity off campus.

Students with prescriptions for medical marijuana may contact the Dean of Students office and submit a letter requesting to be released from their university housing and dining contract. Science & Arts will make accommodations for students who are registered to use medical marijuana under state law by waiving the requirement for them to live on campus or by allowing them to end their housing contract and move off campus. In such situations, students will be released from their contracts with no financial penalty. Any payments made to the university for dining services or housing facilities will be returned to the student in proportion to the remainder of their time on a university meal plan or in university residence halls.

## **Resources**

Any Science & Arts student or employee who has a drug or alcohol related problem may call upon the University for assistance. Any student needing help may contact Student Life at [counseling@usao.edu](mailto:counseling@usao.edu) or 405-574-1326. Any employee needing help may contact Human Resources at [hr@usao.edu](mailto:hr@usao.edu) or 405-574-1225. Designated staff can provide a confidential referral to a drug or alcohol treatment program.

The following resources may be of use to someone needing help or service:

### **ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES**

Science & Arts Counseling Services

405-574-1326  
(M-F, 8am-5pm)

### **NON-CAMPUS PROGRAMS (EXTERNAL OPTIONS)**

Grady Memorial Hospital - 2220 Iowa Ave

405-224-2300  
(Available 24 hours)

Options Counseling

405-222-3018

Byte and Associates

405-222-4786

Southwest Youth and Family Services  
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services

405-222-5437  
405-222-0622

NON-CAMPUS HOTLINES

Alanon/Alateen

800-344-2666

Alcohol & Drug Helpline

800-662-HELP  
(800-662-4357)

Alcohol Helpline

800-ALCOHOL  
(800-252-6465)

Cocaine Helpline

800-COCAINE  
(800-262-2463)

Clearinghouse for Alcohol & Drug info

800-729-6686

National Council on Alcoholism

800-622-2255

Oklahoma Reach Out Hotline

800-522-9054

National Institution on Drug Abuse Information and Referral

800-662-HELP  
(M-F, 8:30am-4:30pm)

Safe & Drug-Free Schools

800-624-0100

American Council for Drug Education

(M-F, 8am-5pm)  
800-488-DRUG