

STUDENT DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE POLICY

I. Statement of the College:

The College, recognizing that drug and alcohol abuse present serious threats to individual health and community safety, strives to maintain a campus free from the illegal use and abuse of alcohol, and from the use, possession or distribution of illegal drugs. Drugs and Alcohol will not be allowed to interfere with student learning or extra-curricular activities. The College strictly enforces state and federal laws that prohibit illegal drug and alcohol use, such as the Federal-Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Community Act Amendments of 1989, and the drug and alcohol abuse policies of the Maryland Higher Education Commission. All HCC students are covered by this Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy. Some College programs or activities, such as nursing or intercollegiate athletics, may have additional “drug free” requirements externally and/or internally imposed on students.

II. Definitions:

A. Alcohol means alcohol, brandy, whiskey, rum, gin, cordial, beer, ale, porter, stout, wine, cider, and any other spirituous, vinous malt or fermented liquor, liquid, or compound, by whatever name called, containing one half of one percent or more by alcohol by volume, which may be ingested.

B. Drug means:

1. Substances recognized in the official United States Pharmacopoeia, official homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States, or official National Formulary, or any supplement to any of them; and
2. Substances intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in man or other animals; and
3. Substances (other than food) intended to affect the structure of any function of the body of man or other animals; and
4. Substances intended for use as a component of any article specified in clause 1, 2, or 3 of this paragraph; but does not include devices or their components, parts, or accessories.

C. Drug includes:

A controlled dangerous substance that is regulated under the Maryland Controlled Dangerous Substances Act;

A prescription medication used or dispensed improperly or in contradiction to the prescription; or

A chemical substance when used for unintended and harmful purposes.

III. Notification:

Students will receive a copy of the HCC Alcohol and Drug Policy annually. In addition, the College conducts a biennial review to determine the effectiveness and consistent enforcement of the policy.

IV. Health Risks/Referral Services:

Alcohol and illicit drug use poses many health risks. Such use may result in: impaired judgment and coordination; physical and psychological dependence; damage to vital organs such as the heart, stomach, liver and brain; inability to learn and remember information, psychosis and severe anxiety; unwanted or unprotected sex resulting in pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS; and injury and death. Information about health risks associated with alcohol and drugs may be found in the Student Activities Office. Students may receive therapeutic intervention through referral of the Dean of Student Affairs. In addition, Washington County Hospital Behavioral Services, the Washington County Health Department, and Brook Lane Health Services are community resources that provide treatment for alcohol and other drug related issues. These resources also maintain current lists of area programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous and Marijuana Anonymous.

V. Alcohol/Drug Policy – Student Violations:

This policy prohibits students from participating in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession and/or use of a controlled substance. Also, all students are expected to honor the College's policy of prohibiting the provision of alcoholic beverages at student events and activities held on campus. The definition of campus includes all locations where HCC classes and activities are held, which includes student travel in association with a college function.

The behavior of a college employee who is also enrolled in HCC classes is guided by the provisions included in the HCC Employee handbook. The employee status supersedes student status, especially in regard to behavioral codes of conduct.

Exceptions:

For special campus events that are designed for an audience other than students, the President is authorized to determine if alcohol may be served. Also, students of legal drinking age who participate in College-sponsored activities off campus may be permitted to consume alcohol; however, college funds will not be used to purchase alcoholic beverages. At these types of events, strict controls will be enforced in order to prevent student underage drinking and irresponsible use of alcohol by students who are of legal drinking age.

VI. Federal, State and College Imposed Penalties:

Students who violate this policy shall be disciplined through the Code of Student Conduct process. Possible sanctions include disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the institution. The College may also refer student violations to appropriate law enforcement authorities for criminal prosecution as it pertains to violation of State and Federal law.