

DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS POLICY STATEMENT

POLICY

Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) recognizes that drug and alcohol abuse diminishes the integrity of the institution and erodes the strength and vitality of its human resources. It is the intent of the University to educate students and employees about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, and to discourage the illegal use, manufacture, possession, dispensation, and distribution of drugs and alcohol. Accordingly, NWOSU adopts the following policy:

The unlawful manufacture, possession, use, dispensation or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on NWOSU property, or as a part of any University sponsored activity, is strictly prohibited. All students and employees must abide by this policy as a condition of enrollment or employment. Continuance of employment or enrollment following receipt of this policy constitutes acceptance of this policy by the employee or student. Sanctions will be imposed for violation of this policy.

SANCTIONS

Under Federal and State Regulations, the University must impose sanctions for violation of its Drug-Free Schools Policy. University sanctions include but are not limited to reprimand, restriction of activities, conduct probation, suspension, expulsion, and termination of employment. The University may also require the completion of an approved rehabilitation program at the employee's or student's expense. A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for Federal Student Aid (FSA) funds. Students convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs while receiving Title IV FSA funds may be ineligible to receive additional funds for a time period depending on whether the conviction was for possessing or selling illegal drugs or whether the student has previous offenses. To regain eligibility, contact the Financial Aid Director at NWOSU. It should be noted by employees that they are also subject to the University's Drug-Free workplace policy. Employees are referred to that policy for additional sanctions.

It is also within the discretion of the University to refer any violations to the appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution. Local, State, and Federal laws provide for a variety of legal sanctions for the unlawful manufacture, possession, use, dispensation, and distribution of drugs and alcohol, including incarceration and monetary fines.

Federal law provides rather severe penalties for manufacturing, distribution, or dispensing, using, or possessing with the intent to distribute, or dispense a controlled substance, and penalties of a less severe nature for a 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 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 result 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 make both the minimum period of imprisonment and fines greater. Under special provisions for possession of crack, a person may be sentenced to mandatory term of at least 5 years in prison and not more than 20 years, a fine of \$25,000, or both.

State law provides similar penalties with regard to the simple use, possession, manufacturing, dispensation, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance. Simple possession of marijuana is a misdemeanor and carries a punishment of up to 1 year in the county jail. A second or subsequent conviction for simple possession of marijuana carries 2-10 years in the state penitentiary. Possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute is a felony and carries a punishment of 2 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 4 years to life in prison and a fine of up to \$40,000. For the crime of possession with intent to distribute, the penalty doubles if violation is within 1000 feet of a school, also if you are convicted, you must serve a minimum of 50% of the penalty.

In addition, state law provides that possession of or possession with intent to consume alcohol by someone under 21 years old in a public place is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100 or 20 hours of community service. There are also state laws concerning driving under the influence of alcohol and using a false driver's license to obtain 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.

HEALTH RISKS

Alcohol and other drug use represent serious threats to health and the quality of life. More than 25,000 people die each year from drug-related accidents or health problems. With most drugs it is probable that users will develop psychological and physical dependence. The general categories of drugs and their effects are as follows:

Alcohol - short-term effects include behavioral changes, impairment of judgement 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 the barbiturates/depressants can prove to be a deadly mixture.

Amphetamines/Stimulants - (speed, uppers, crank, caffeine, etc.) speed up the nervous system which can cause increased heart and breathing rates, high blood pressure, decreased appetite, headaches, blurred vision, dizziness, sleepiness, anxiety, hallucinations, paranoia, depression, convulsions and death due to a stroke or heart failure.

Anabolic Steroids - seriously affect the liver, cardiovascular, and reproductive system. Can cause sterility in males and females, as well as impotency in males.

Barbiturates/Depressants - (downers, quaaludes, valium, etc.) slows down the central nervous system which can cause decreased heart and breathing rates, lower blood pressure, slowed reactions, confusion, distortion of reality, convulsion, respiratory depression, coma, and death. Depressants combined with alcohol can be lethal.

Cocaine/Crack - 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.

Hallucinogens - (PCP, angel dust, LSD, etc.) interrupt the functions of the part of the brain which controls the 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.

Cannabis - (Marijuana, hashish, hash, etc.) impairs short-term memory, comprehension, concentration, 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 a long period - enhances the risk of getting cancer. Combined with alcohol, marijuana can produce a dangerous multiplied effect.

Narcotics - (smack, horse, demerol, percodan, etc.) initially produce feelings of euphoria often followed by drowsiness, nausea, and vomiting. An overdose may result in convulsion, coma, and death. Tolerance develops rapidly and dependence is likely. Using contaminated syringes to inflict such drugs may result in AIDS.

Tobacco/Nicotine - some 170,000 people in the United States die each year from smoking-related coronary heart disease. Some 30% of the 130,000 cancer deaths each year are linked to smoking. Lung, larynx, esophagus, bladder, pancreas and kidney cancer strikes 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 Counseling Office. You should also consult your personal doctor about the health risks associated with alcohol and drug use.

COUNSELING AND REHABILITATION

The University will seek to incorporate the teaching of the hazards of drug and alcohol abuse throughout the curriculum where appropriate. The University will also request authorities in the area of drug and alcohol abuse to present programs for the University community.

The following hotline numbers may also be used by those needing help or advice:

Federal Abuse & Mental Health Services
.....1-800-662-HELP
National Council on Alcoholism.....1-800-622-2255
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
Reach Out Hotline.....1-800-522-9054
MADD.....1-800-438-6233
Valley Hope Alcohol & Drug.....1-800-722-5940

Any questions regarding the rules, regulations, and policies set forth in this statement may be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management office.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This institution, in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, and to the extent required by law, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, genetic information, physical or mental disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. Inquiries concerning the application of these programs should be made to Calleb Mosburg, Dean of Student Affairs, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Boulevard, Alva, OK 73717, (580) 327-8415.

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