



## Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Academic Initiatives & Student Success

**To:** The University of Arizona Student Community

**From:** Melissa Vito, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management & Senior Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives and Student Success

**Date:** March 28, 2017

**Subject:** The University of Arizona Statement on Drug Free Schools and Campuses

Under federal legislation entitled the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 ("Act"), "no institution of higher education shall be eligible to receive funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, including participation in any federally funded or guaranteed student loan program," unless it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the use of illicit drugs and abuse of alcohol by students and employees. The Act requires the annual distribution of the following information to students and employees.

### **Policy and Prohibition**

To achieve the policy and objective of providing a drug-free environment for all University students and employees, the University prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance on its property or as part of any of its activities. Further, the University prohibits employees from (a) consuming or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages while on duty; or (b) while on duty, distributing narcotics or controlled substances, or possessing or using narcotics or any controlled substance(s) not prescribed for the employee by a physician; or (c) being under the influence of narcotics or any controlled substance(s) not prescribed for the employee by a physician. University of Arizona students and employees are subject to all applicable drug and alcohol policies, including policies set forth in the Classified Staff Human Resources Policy Manual, University Handbook for Appointed Personnel, Arizona Board of Regents Code of Conduct, the University of Arizona Alcohol Policy and Regulations, and other applicable rules as adopted.

### **Sanctions**

- Local, state, and federal laws make illegal use of drugs and alcohol serious crimes. Conviction can lead to imprisonment, fines, and assigned community service.
- In order to ensure fair and consistent treatment of all students or employees who are accused of illegal use of drugs or alcohol, the University will handle all such cases that come to its attention in accordance with applicable policies and procedures of the Arizona Board of Regents and the University (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary Procedures, Staff Rules of Conduct and

Disciplinary Action, ABOR Code of Conduct) and where appropriate, local, state, and federal laws and regulations

- Sanctions will be imposed on students or employees who violate Arizona Board of Regents or University drug and/or alcohol policies. Sanctions may include suspension or expulsion for students and, for employees, disciplinary action up to and including termination.

## Health Risks

There are definite health risks associated with the abuse of alcohol and illegal substances. Alcohol or any other drug used in excess over time can produce illness, disability, and death. The health consequences of substance abuse may be immediate and unpredictable, such as cardiac arrest with cocaine use, or more subtle and long term, such as liver deterioration associated with the prolonged use of alcohol. In addition to health-related problems, other concerns relating to substance abuse include the following:

- People who abuse alcohol and other drugs often have erratic lifestyles which interfere with sleep, nutrition, and exercise.
- Alcohol and substance abuse may lead to financial difficulties, domestic violence, deterioration of the family structure, motor vehicle accidents, and decline in job performance.
- Repeated abuse of alcohol and other drugs can lead to dependence.

## Support Systems and Resources for Students

If you are experiencing problems with alcohol and/or other drugs, campus and community resources are available to assist you.

Two Campus Health Service programs can provide assistance to students with substance abuse problems. First, Counseling and Psych Services (CAPS) offers confidential short-term counseling and community referrals as needed. Second, Health Promotion & Preventive Services provides risk reduction programs for students, including individual, brief intervention through BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening & Intervention for College Students); the SHADE (Student Health Alcohol/Drug Education) program for those in violation of UA alcohol and marijuana policies; and presentations and educational information to the campus community. These programs provide students with information on the risks of drug and alcohol abuse. For more information, please call 520-621-6483.

- First-year UA students are required to complete the eCheck Up To Go program by the end of September, available at [www.health.arizona.edu/echeckup](http://www.health.arizona.edu/echeckup)
- Additional information on programs and resources related to alcohol, including BASICS, SHADE, the Red Cup Q&A, and The Buzz, can be found at: <http://www.health.arizona.edu/alcohol>
- If you know someone who may be struggling with alcohol or other drugs, the Friend 2 Friend website is another resource that can provide assistance: <http://f2f.health.arizona.edu>.

## **Reporting Responsibility**

The campus police refer all students including student employees to the Dean of Students Office. Students found responsible of any alcohol or drug-related offense arising from the use of substances on campus may face both criminal and administrative sanctioning and campus employment may be subject to termination. Dean's Office administrators are also available to answer any questions pertaining to the University's compliance.

## **Statement on the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act**

Arizona voters approved the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act in 2010. Under certain circumstances, this act permits individuals to possess and use limited quantities of marijuana for medical purposes. Because of its obligations under federal law, however, the University has always prohibited and will continue to prohibit marijuana possession and use on campus for any purpose.

The federal Controlled Substances Act prohibits the possession, use, or production of marijuana, even for medical use. Failure to comply with the Controlled Substances Act would violate the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, rendering the University of Arizona ineligible to "receive funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, including participation in any federally funded or guaranteed student loan program." Therefore, the University will continue to enforce its current policies prohibiting the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance on its property or as part of any of its activities.

Employees and students who violate University policy prohibiting the use or possession of illegal drugs, including marijuana, on campus will continue to be subject to disciplinary action.

University policy does not prohibit medical research projects involving marijuana that are conducted on campus as authorized by applicable federal approvals, which may include the United States Food and Drug Administration, The United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the National Institutes on Drug Abuse, and approval of any applicable University Institutional Review Board.

## **Related Links**

[\*\*Arizona Board of Regents Student Disciplinary Procedures\*\*](#)

[\*\*Arizona Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct\*\*](#)

[\*\*University of Arizona Alcohol Policy and Regulations\*\*](#)

[\*\*UA Campus Health Service\*\*](#)

[\*\*Counseling and Psych Services \(CAPS\)\*\*](#)

**Health Promotion & Preventive Services (HPPS)**

**The Buzz – Alcohol Prevention Program**

**SHADE Diversion Program**

**BASICS Program**