

Drug-Free School Policy

The possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of alcohol, unauthorized, or illegal drugs or the misuse of any legal drugs on college premises or at any college activity is strictly prohibited and will constitute grounds for disciplinary action, which may include expulsion.

Disciplinary Action and Sanctions

Appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken in all cases in which a student violates provisions of the Antonelli College Drug-Free School Policy. Penalties and/or sanctions may include any one or a combination of the following:

1. recommended professional counseling
2. letter of probation
4. mandatory participation in an organized drug treatment program
5. denial or termination of financial aid
6. suspension, or expulsion
7. referral to local authorities for prosecution

The circumstances surrounding the offense and the facts as determined by appropriate investigation will be fully reviewed prior to a decision on the action being taken.

Legal Sanctions

Local, state, and federal legal statutes contain sanctions for violations of laws concerning the use, distribution, manufacture, and/or possession of alcohol and illegal drugs. These sanctions include imprisonment for a period of time up to a term of life imprisonment, fines, supervised release, or any combination of the above.

It is unlawful for a person under 21 years of age to possess alcoholic beverages, and the selling, giving, or serving of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 is unlawful. The purchase, consumption, transportation or possession of alcoholic beverages by a person under 21 is punishable by fines of up to \$500.

The legal sanctions for the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs are more diverse than the sanctions governing alcohol. They may vary from fines for first time misdemeanor offenses involving simple possession of certain substances to felony counts and multiple year terms of imprisonment for more serious violations.

The unlawful possession of less than 30 grams of marijuana or less than 8 grams of hashish, for example, is a misdemeanor and may carry a maximum jail sentence of 30 days and/or a fine of \$500. The manufacture, delivery or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver heroin and other narcotics is a felony and carries a maximum jail sentence of 15 years and/or \$250,000 fine.

A more complete summary of penalties related to alcohol and illicit drugs may be found online at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Mississippi Alcoholic Beverage Control website

(<http://www.dor.ms.gov/Pages/ABC-QA.aspx>) and the Ohio Board of Liquor Control (<http://com.ohio.gov/liqr/default.aspx>).

Individuals seeking legal advice regarding drug or alcohol laws should consult legal counsel.

Health Risks Associated with Alcohol and Drug Use

Abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs, and the misuse of any legal drugs, can result in serious health consequences. Some health risks associated with the most common mood-altering substances include: organ damage; impairment of brain activity, digestion, and blood circulation; addiction; increased likelihood of accidents; increased risk of contracting hepatitis, AIDS, and other infections; various birth defects; respiratory paralysis; and death. The use of alcohol can lead to: loss of muscle control, poor coordination, and slurred speech; fatigue, nausea, and headache; impaired judgment; increased likelihood of accidents; alcoholism; damage to brain cells; hallucinations; personality disorders; increased risk of cirrhosis, ulcers, heart disease, heart attack, and cancer; and death.

Resources

The College is prepared to help students find appropriate assistance in dealing with alcohol and drug-related problems. It is each student's responsibility to seek assistance before the problem affects judgment, performance, or behavior.

This institution has established a list of several drug-counseling centers to provide drug counseling, rehabilitation, and student assistance programs.

- National Institute on Drug Abuse Hotline: 1-800-662-HELP
- Alcoholics Anonymous of Cincinnati 513-351-0422
- National Institute on Drug Abuse Workplace Helpline: 1-800-843-4971
- National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information: 1-301-468-2600
- The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and Referral Hotline (800-662-HELP)
- The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Helpline (800-967-5752)

Any student who suspects they or someone else may be at risk is invited to seek services that can be of help.

Notice of federal student financial aid penalties for drug law violations

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student from federal financial aid funds. Under the Higher Education Act, a student may become ineligible for federal student aid upon conviction of any offense involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs while receiving Title IV federal financial aid. Federal aid includes Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, and Federal Pell Grants.

Convictions during enrollment

According to the United States Department of Education, if a student is convicted of a drug offense after receiving Federal aid, he or she must notify the Financial Aid Office immediately and that student will be ineligible for further aid and required to pay back all aid received after the conviction.

Convictions apply if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV federal financial aid; convictions do not count if the offense did not occur during such a period. A conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record does not count toward federal financial aid eligibility. In addition, a conviction received when the student was a juvenile does not apply, unless that student was tried as an adult.

Pursuant to federal law, a conviction for the sale of drugs includes convictions for conspiring to sell drugs. Moreover, those students convicted of both selling and possessing illegal drugs will be subject to ineligibility for the longer period as prescribed under the circumstances.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when the student successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program. Further drug convictions will make the student ineligible again for federal financial aid programs. Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it only after successfully completing a rehabilitation program as described below. Furthermore, eligibility can be regained if a conviction is reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record so that fewer than two convictions for the sale or three convictions for the possession of illegal drugs remain on the student's record. In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to certify to the College that a qualified drug rehabilitation program has been completed.

For purposes of financial aid eligibility, a qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least two unannounced drug tests and must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

- Be qualified to receive funds directly or indirectly from a federal, state, or local government program
- Be qualified to receive payment directly or indirectly from a federally or state licensed insurance company
- Be administered or recognized by a federal, state, or local government agency or court
- Be administered or recognized by a federally or state-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor.

Drug law violations & free application for federal student aid (FAFSA)

Question 23 on the FAFSA form asks if the student has ever been convicted of a drug related offense. Failure to answer this question will automatically disqualify the student from receiving Federal aid. Falsely answering this question, if discovered, could result in fines up to \$20,000, imprisonment, or both. If you are not sure how you should answer this question, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

For more information regarding illegal drug convictions and financial aid eligibility, please visit the Frequently Asked Question section of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website www.fafsa.ed.gov

Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Financial Aid Staff for further inquiries on these matters.