

6.6.1 Alcohol and Drug Prevention Policy

Drug Free Schools and Campuses (DFSC) Regulations – require all institutions of higher education, as a condition of receiving federal funds or other forms of federal financial assistance under any federal program, to certify that they have implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. Implementation of this regulation requires a written policy, distribution to all students and employees and completion of a biennial report on the effectiveness of the programs and the consistency of policy enforcement.

I. Policy: The possession, consumption, distribution, manufacture or sale (without valid dental or medical prescription) of alcoholic beverages, illegal or dangerous drugs on East Georgia College property or at institutionally approved events off campus is prohibited.

II. Institutional sanctions for violations of the above policy are located in Chapter 7 of the *Faculty Handbook and the Board of Regents Policy Manual*. If a voluntary disclosure of drug and or alcohol use or abuse is provided by a faculty member, he or she may be required to attend a mandatory drug and or alcohol treatment program as condition of continued employment, (BOR Policy 802.19). Other sanctions include suspension for violation of state or federal laws as provided in BOR Policy 803.1104, severance as provided in Chapter 7.7 of *Faculty Manual* and severance may occur before the end of the contract term provided the institution has complied with procedural due process requirements. (See BOR Policy 803.1102). Sanctions imposed upon a faculty member by East Georgia College may be challenged, and if eligible, may be submitted to the Grievance Committee for consideration. Faculty may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee to the President, and may then appeal the President's decision to the Board of Regents.

III. State Legal Sanctions: Criminal Sanctions: Under Georgia and federal law, it is a crime to possess, manufacture, sell, or distribute illegal drugs. As required by federal regulations, you may view charts detailing:

federal penalties for marijuana trafficking at <http://www.ega.edu/Security/Marijuana.htm>
federal penalties for drug trafficking at <http://www.ega.edu/Security/OtherDrugs.htm>
and the state drug law summaries at <http://www.ega.edu/Security/StateDrugLaw.htm>

Federal sanctions for the illegal possession of drugs include imprisonment up to 1 year and/or a minimum fine of \$1,000 for a first conviction; imprisonment for 15 days-2 years and a minimum fine of \$2,500 for a second drug conviction; and imprisonment for 90 days-3 years and a minimum fine of \$5,000 for a third or subsequent drug conviction. For possession of a mixture or substance which contains a cocaine base, federal sanctions include 5-20 years in prison and a minimum fine of \$1,000, for a first conviction if the mixture or substance exceeds 5 grams, for a second conviction if the mixture or substance exceeds 3 grams, and for a third or subsequent conviction if the mixture or substance exceeds 1 gram. Additional possible penalties for the illegal possession of drugs are forfeiture of real or personal property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance if the offense is punishable by more than 1 year imprisonment; forfeiture of vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other conveyance used, or intended for use, to transport or conceal drugs; civil fine up to \$10,000 per violation; denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses for up to 1 year for a first and up to 5 years for a second or subsequent offense; successful completion of a drug treatment program; community service; and ineligibility to receive or purchase a firearm.

Georgia law prohibits the purchase or possession of alcohol by a person under the age of 21, or the furnishing of alcohol to such a person. Driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs

also is illegal. It is against Georgia law, under certain circumstances, to walk or be upon a roadway while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The punishment for these offenses may include imprisonment, payment of a fine, mandatory treatment and education programs, community service, and mandatory loss of one's driver's license.

IV. Health Risks. The following information on health risks is from Worcester Poly Technic Institute Policies and Benefits Manual- Health Risks Associated with Alcohol and Drugs [taken from URL: <https://www.wpi.edu/Admin/HR/BenMan/healthrisks.html>] and West Texas A&M University: A Drug-Free Campus [taken from URL: <http://www.tamu.edu/administrative/udf/per/form.pdf>].

A. Health Risks of Alcohol-

Health risks associated with excessive use of alcohol or alcohol dependency include dramatic behavioral changes, retardation of motor skills, and impairment of reasoning and rational thinking. These factors result in a higher incidence of accidents and accidental death than for nonusers of alcohol. Nutrition also suffers, and vitamin and mineral deficiencies are frequent. Prolonged alcohol abuse causes bleeding from the intestinal tract, damage to nerves and the brain, psychotic behavior, loss of memory and coordination. Damage to the liver often results in cirrhosis. Other risks include impotence, severe inflammation of the pancreas, and damage to the bone marrow, heart, testes, ovaries, and muscles. Damage to nerves and organs is usually irreversible.

B. Health Risks of Other Drugs-

Use of illicit drugs may lead to physiological and mental changes similar to those caused by alcohol, although changes are frequently more severe and more sudden. Death or coma resulting from overdose of drugs is also more frequent. In addition to adverse effects associated with use of a specific drug, intravenous drug users who use unsterilized needles or who share needles with other users can develop AIDS, hepatitis, tetanus and infections in the heart. Brain damage may also result.

Below is a general description of dangers associated with alcohol and other drug use.

- **Depressants** (Alcohol- beer, wine, liquor) - Accidents can occur as a result of impaired ability and judgment. There is an overdose potential when mixed with other depressants. By itself, heart, liver, brain damage as well as birth defects can develop if used during pregnancy. Death can result from an overdose, as a result of accidents, or from effects from long-term abuse.
 - A. **Narcotics-** (heroin, junk, dope, black tar, China white, Demerol, Dilaudid, morphine, codeine) cause addiction, lethargy, weight loss, contamination from unsterile needles, and accidental overdose.
 - B. **Barbiturates** (sedatives, tranquilizers) - Possible overdose, can occur especially in combination with alcohol, muscle rigidity, addiction, withdrawal and overdose require medical treatment. Individuals often experience an increased level of anxiety after drug wears off. Death can result from an overdose.
- **Stimulants (Cocaine-** coke, crack rock, base) - Results from use include addiction, heart attack, seizures, lung damage, severe depression, paranoia, restlessness, and irritability. Death from heart failure can result for first time users.
 - B. **Amphetamines-** (speed, uppers, crank, bam, black beauties, crystal, dexies) - can cause fatigue leading to exhaustion, addiction, paranoia, depression, confusion, possible hallucination, and weight loss.

- **Hallucinogens- Acid** (PCP, MCMA, ecstasy, psilocybin, mushrooms, peyote)- can lead to unpredictable behavior, emotional instability, altered perception of time and place, vomiting, nausea, flashbacks, violent behavior (PCP), "bad trips", and psychotic reaction.

B. **Marijuana** (Pot, dope, grass, weed, herb, hash, joint)- Use often results in pain reaction, impaired short term memory, addiction, lung disease, and interference with body's immune response to various infections and diseases. Marijuana distorts perception, hampers judgment, diminishes motor skills, can cause birth defects if used during pregnancy, and contributes to loss of ambition and diminished ability to carry out long term goals.

All of the above if used during pregnancy can cause serious birth defects. Alcohol use during pregnancy is the third leading cause of mental retardation in the U.S.

There are seven possible symptoms of someone involved in drugs:

1. Change in school or work attendance or performance
2. Alteration of personal appearance
3. Mood swings or attitude changes
4. Withdrawal from responsibilities/family contacts
5. Association with drug-abusing peers
6. Unusual pattern of behavior
7. Defensive attitude concerning drugs

V. Counseling and Treatment Resources: Substance Abuse Services Available in Area-

- For inpatient detoxification services, contact New Directions Ambulatory Detox (478-289-2486) located at 207 North Anderson Drive in Swainsboro, Georgia. They provide education about addiction and out-patient support groups. They also provide medication to assist the individual with withdrawals. They don't turn individuals away based on inability to pay. They help find long-term programs for individuals after detoxification. Individuals normally stay 12 hours. Individuals should stay as long as possible (5 days-week is the average stay).
- For outpatient substance abuse services, the individual should contact Ogeechee Behavioral Health Services (located at 223 North Anderson Drive in Swainsboro, Georgia) 478-289-2530 for an appointment. Once the appointment is scheduled, the individual will meet with a Mental Health Counselor. The Counselor determines if the individual qualifies for out-patient services or further services from the clinic. If determined eligible for services, the individual is scheduled for a second appointment to see the nurse and doctor. Some insurance policies are accepted as payment. There is also a sliding fee scale for services based on the individual's income.

VI. Referral Sources for Employees Health Insurance: PPO participants can obtain information & referrals through Magellan (1-800-631-9943); Indemnity Plan participants can obtain info/referrals via UNICARE (1-800-233-5765); and HMO BlueChoice participants can obtain info/referrals from Blue Cross Blue Shield of GA Behavioral Health (1-800-292-2879).