

# Evangel University Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Policy

## Introduction

Evangel University is affiliated with the Assemblies of God, a community of churches that emphasizes the importance of surrendering our lives to Christ and living lives which, empowered by the Holy Spirit, demonstrate God's call for us to be Christ-like in all that we do. As a result of this affiliation and commitment to God's call, and in compliance with the *Drug Free Schools and Communities Acts Amendments of 1989*, Evangel University defines in this policy the lifestyle expectations and requirements for students that relate to the manufacture, possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco products as well as the abuse of prescription and nonprescription medications.

## A. Policy

Maintaining our personal health and mental well-being is an essential part of our commitment at Evangel University to serve Christ. As a demonstration of that commitment, we expect everyone in the Evangel University community (including employees and all students), while on or off University property, to refrain from the manufacture, possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs, synthetic drugs (K2 and other synthetic cannabinoids, bath salts, or products used in a similar manner), alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, and to avoid the abuse of prescription or nonprescription drugs.

This policy also applies to all guests while visiting on our campus or attending University sponsored events outside of the campus. As Christians, we believe that this commitment to abstinence is a responsible way to avoid the alcohol and drug abuse problems that cause such great damage and cost to our society and its families.

**Parental Notification:** Evangel is concerned about students who improperly use alcohol and other drugs and the effects such use may have on their health, academic success, interpersonal relationships and, ultimately, their future.

Evangel University alcohol policy expressly forbids possession and/or consumption of alcohol by students and employees. This policy also applies to guests who are on campus. Possession of drug paraphernalia and the use, manufacture, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs, whether on or off campus, by any student or employee is also prohibited. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the university reserves the right to notify the parents/guardians of students under 21 years of age, and the parents/guardians of dependent students, regardless of age, of any incident in which the student is found responsible for violating the university alcohol and drug policy.

## B. Support Services

We offer support services to students who may be struggling with drug and/or alcohol use. They can seek professional Christian counseling services and health services at the Wellness Center (865-2815 ext. 7280) in Cantrell Student Union. There is no charge for these short-term counseling and health services, and confidentiality is guarded carefully. Information is not

shared with anyone without the client's permission, unless a student is at serious risk of harming himself/herself. Students needing long-term treatment or therapy are generally referred to professionals off campus at their own expense. The campus pastor is available for pastoral counseling. Students are encouraged also to seek prayer, guidance and encouragement from members of the faculty and Student Development staff.

Off-campus community counseling and treatment services are available from the following organizations at a potential cost to students and employees:

- Burrell Behavioral Health-Center for Addictions, 1300 Bradford Parkway, Springfield, MO, 417-883-5400
- Cox Health-Center for Addictions, 1423 Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO, 417-269-2273
- Clarity Recovery and Wellness, 800 S. Park, Springfield, MO, 800-520-7758
- Mercy Marian Center, 1235 E. Cherokee, Springfield, MO 417-820-7447
- Missouri Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health, 149 Park Central Square, Springfield, MO 417-895-6328

### **C. Consequences for Violations of this Policy**

In compliance with our community standards and those of local/state/federal laws, we advise both traditional and nontraditional students, as well as employees that the following consequences will occur when the policy is violated:

1. Students or employees who violate city ordinances or state or federal statutes law regarding the manufacture, possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs, synthetic drugs (K2 and other synthetic cannabinoids, bath salts, or products used in a similar manner), alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or medications may be reported to the legal authorities.
2. Those who violate University standards, city ordinances or state or federal statutes regarding (a) the manufacture, possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs, synthetic drugs (K2 and other synthetic cannabinoids, bath salts, or products used in a similar manner), alcoholic beverages or tobacco products or (b) the abuse of medications will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge for employees and dismissal for students.
3. If found to be in violation of University standards but permitted to continue as a part of the community on probationary status, the student may be subject to mandatory counseling (on or off campus), periodic inspections, and/or supervised, random drug tests at a medical facility over a given period of time. The student will be responsible solely for costs of the drug screens and off-campus counseling.
4. Any member of the Evangel University community who refuses to take a field sobriety test and/or a breathalyzer test, when asked to submit to either or both by an Evangel Public Safety Officer for reasonable cause, shall be considered to be in violation of the University's standards prohibiting the possession, use, or distribution of alcohol. "Reasonable cause" includes the odor of alcohol on a person's breath, slurred speech,

glassy eyes, being unsteady or unstable on a person's feet, and/or similar observations.

5. Any member of the Evangel University community who refuses to submit to a drug test or refuses to provide written consent permitting Evangel University to be apprised of the testing results, shall be considered to be in violation of the University's illegal drug policy. Reasonable grounds for drug testing may include, but are not limited to: incoherent, erratic or violent behavior; repeated tardiness and/or absenteeism; drug-related odors on person, clothing, room or vehicle; sudden unexplainable drop in academic or work performance; possession of drug paraphernalia; previous positive drug screen results; being cited for substance abuse violations by University or municipal authorities; a report that is provided by a reliable and credible source regarding use of illegal substance.
6. Student organizations are under the same legal requirements as individuals concerning local, state, and federal laws. Any violation of these laws in conjunction with a student organization activity constitutes a violation of University policy. Violations of policy could result not only in disciplinary action against the individual(s) involved, but also in suspension or loss of University recognition of the organization.

#### **D. Special Obligations of Employees and the University**

1. Employer's statement:  
All University employees are notified hereby that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the University workplace and that a violation of this prohibition shall result in immediate disciplinary action up to and including discharge.
2. Conditions of employment:  
As a condition of employment, all University employees must: (1) abide by the terms of the prohibition referred to in the preceding paragraph; and (2) notify the University of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than 5 days after such conviction.
3. Employer's obligations:
  - a. Notification of agency-- The University will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency within 10 days after receiving the 5-day notice from an employee referred to in the preceding paragraph or upon otherwise receiving actual notice of such a conviction.
  - b. Responsive action-- Within 30 days of receiving notice from an employee of a criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace, the University shall, with respect to any employee who is so convicted: (1) take appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination; or (2) require such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or a rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a federal, state or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency.

## E. Definitions

1. "University activities" are defined as those activities that are sponsored by a University department or are sponsored by a recognized student organization.
2. "University property" is defined as University-owned or leased grounds, facilities, or vehicles.

## F. Description of Local, State and Federal Legal Sanctions

(see also *Missouri Drug Regulations* at <http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/C100-199/1950000223.HTM>, or *Federal Trafficking Penalties* from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (<http://www.justice.gov/dea/druginfo/ftp3.shtml>)

1. Local sanctions--Springfield City Code prohibits the following alcohol-related offenses:
  - a. Possession by persons under 21 years of age of any beer, wine or intoxicating liquor. Section 10-4 of the Springfield City Code.
  - b. Open containers of alcoholic beverages in motor vehicles within the passenger compartment of any motor vehicle that is being operated upon a public way. Section 10-8 of the Springfield City Code.
  - c. Possession, sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain public places. No person may sell, give away, purchase or dispense any intoxicating liquors on public streets or alleyways, nor may any person sell, dispense, give away, offer to sell or possess or consume any alcoholic beverage in any city park. No person shall sell, purchase, dispense or possess any alcoholic beverages on school property, on the Downtown Pedestrian Shopping Mall or in Ozark Jubilee Park or Courthouses. Section 78-4 of the Springfield City Code.
  - d. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages. No person may possess or consume any alcoholic beverage on any business premise except those licensed by the city to sell alcoholic beverages. Section 78-189 of the Springfield City Code.
  - e. Each of the above offenses is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment up to 180 days, or both fine and imprisonment. Sections 1-7 of the Springfield City Code.
2. State sanctions--Missouri statutes prohibit the following acts:
  - a. Alcohol offenses:
    - (1) Purchase or possession by a minor. Any person under 21 years of age who purchases, attempts to purchase, or possesses any intoxicating liquor is guilty of a misdemeanor. R.S.Mo. ~311.325. This offense is punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$1,000, nor by imprisonment in the county jail for up to 1 year, or by both jail sentence and fine. R.S.Mo. ~311.880.
    - (2) Supply intoxicating liquor to any person less than 21 years of age. Any person who shall procure for, sell, give away or otherwise supply intoxicating liquor to any person under the age of 21 years, or any intoxicated person or any person appearing to be in a state of intoxication, or to a habitual drunkard, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. R.S.Mo. ~311.310.
    - (3) Any person under 21 years of age who is convicted of any local or state offense involving the use or possession of alcohol will be required to complete an approved alcohol related education program. R.S.Mo. ~577.525.

- (4) Any person under 21 years of age who is convicted of any offense involving the possession or use of alcohol, committed while operating a motor vehicle, or any alcohol-related traffic offense, shall, for the first offense, have his or her license suspended for a period of 90 days, or upon a second conviction of any offense involving the possession or use of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle, will lose his or her driver's license for 1 year. R.S.Mo. ~577.500.
- b. Illegal drug offenses:
- (1) Possession of a controlled substance except for certain statutory exceptions, it is unlawful for a person to possess or have control of a controlled substance. R.S.Mo. ~195.202.
- (2) Any person who violates this section with respect to any controlled substance (except 35 grams or less of marijuana) is guilty of a Class C felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to 7 years, a fine of up to \$5,000, or double the amount of the offender's gain from the crime up to \$20,000, or both imprisonment and fine. R.S.Mo. ~560.011, 558.011.
- (3) Any person who violates this section with respect to not more than 35 grams or marijuana is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to 1 year, or a fine of up to \$1,000, or both imprisonment and fine. R.S.Mo. ~560.016, 558.011.
- (4) Any person under 21 years of age who is convicted of a second offense involving the possession of a controlled substance will have his driver's license revoked for 1 year. R.S.Mo. ~577.500.
- (5) Any person over 21 years of age who is convicted of any local or state law involving the possession or use of a controlled substance will have his driver's license revoked for 1 year. R.S.Mo. ~577.505.
- c. Distribution, delivery, manufacture or production of a controlled substance.
- (1) It is illegal for any person to distribute, deliver, manufacture, produce or attempt to distribute, deliver, manufacture or produce a controlled substance. R.S.Mo. ~195.211.
- (2) Violation of this section with respect to any controlled substance except with respect to 5 grams or less of marijuana is a Class B felony, punishable by imprisonment for not less than 5 years and not more than 15 years. R.S.Mo. ~558.011.
- d. Unlawful distribution to a minor.
- (1) It is illegal to distribute or deliver any controlled substance to a person less than 17 years of age, who is also two years younger than the person so delivering. R.S.Mo. ~195.212.
- (2) Violation of this section is a Class B felony, punishable by imprisonment for not less than 5 years or more than 15 years. R.S.Mo. ~558.011.
- e. Distribution of a controlled substance near schools.
- (1) It is illegal to distribute or deliver any controlled substance to a person in or on, or within 2,000 feet of, property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school, public vocational school, or a public or private junior college, college or university or on any school bus. R.S.Mo. ~195.214.
- (2) Distribution of a controlled substance within 2000 feet of schools is a Class A felony, punishable by imprisonment for a term of not less than 10 years and not exceeding 30 years, or life imprisonment. R.S.Mo. ~558.011.
- f. Trafficking drugs:

- (1) A person commits the crime of trafficking drugs in the first degree if he distributes, delivers, manufactures, produces or attempts to distribute, deliver, manufacture or produce:
    - (a) More than 30 grams of a substance containing heroin;
    - (b) More than 150 grams of a substance containing coca leaves;
    - (c) More than 2 grams of a substance that contains a cocaine base;
    - (d) More than 500 milligrams of a substance containing LSD;
    - (e) More than 30 grams of a substance containing PCP;
    - (f) More than 30 kilograms of a substance containing marijuana; or
    - (g) More than 150 grams of any illegal stimulants. R.S.Mo. ~195.222 (1986).
  - (2) Violation of this law is a Class A felony, punishable by a term of imprisonment for up to life. Violations in excess of the above described minimums can result in life imprisonment without the possibility of probation or parole. R.S.Mo. ~195.222 (1990 Supp.); R.S.Mo. ~ 558.011.
  - (3) A person commits the crime of trafficking drugs in the second degree if he possesses or has under his control, purchases or attempts to purchase, or brings into this state:
    - (a) More than 30 grams of a substance containing heroin;
    - (b) More than 150 grams of a substance containing coca leaves;
    - (c) More than 2 grams of a substance that contains cocaine base;
    - (d) More than 500 milligrams of a substance containing LSD;
    - (e) More than 30 grams of a substance containing PCP;
    - (f) More than 30 kilograms of a substance containing marijuana; or
    - (g) More than 30 grams of any illegal stimulants. R.S.Mo. ~195.223.
  - (4) Violation of this law is a Class B felony, punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years or more than 15 years. Violation with larger amounts may be a Class A felony, punishable by imprisonment for 10 to 30 years, or life. R.S.Mo. ~195.223 (1990 Supp.); R.S.Mo. ~558.011.
  - (5) Any money found in close proximity to any controlled substance, or anything of value exchanged for a controlled substance, may be forfeited to the state. R.S.Mo. ~195.140.
3. Federal sanctions--United States Code prohibits the following acts:
- a. Alcohol offenses: Legal sanctions for the unlawful possession or distribution of alcohol are found primarily in state and local law.
  - b. Illegal drug offenses:
    - (1) Simple possession. It is illegal for any person to knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance unless obtained by a valid prescription. 21 U.S.C. ~844.
    - (2) Violations of this section are punishable by imprisonment for up to 1 year, a minimum fine of \$1,000, or both. After a prior conviction for any drug offense, the violator shall be imprisoned for a term of at least 15 days and not more than 2 years and fined a minimum of \$2,500. A third conviction carries a penalty of imprisonment for at least 90 days but no more than 3 years and a minimum fine of \$5,000. A person convicted under this subsection for the possession of a mixture or substance which contains cocaine base shall be imprisoned not less than 5 years and not more than 20 years, and fined a minimum of \$1,000, if the

conviction is a first conviction under this subsection and the amount of the mixture or substance exceeds 5 grams.

- (3) Where a person at least 18 years of age distributes a controlled substance to any person under 21 years of age, or where a person possesses with intent to distribute, distributes or manufactures a controlled substance in or on, or within 1000 feet of a public or private elementary, secondary, vocational or public or private college, junior college or university, or playground or housing facility owned by a public housing authority, or within 100 feet of a youth center, public swimming pool or video arcade facility, the punishment shall be twice the maximum punishment provided in 21 U.S.C. 841 , which provides in part 1, such person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment which may not be less than 10 years or more than life and if death or serious bodily injury results from the use of such substance shall be not less than 20 years or more than life, a fine not to exceed the greater of that authorized in accordance with the provisions of title 18 or \$4,000,000 if the defendant is an individual or \$10,000,000 if the defendant is other than an individual, or both.
- (4) Any person convicted of a drug offense under these federal laws shall forfeit to the government any property derived from or obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the violation, or any property used to commit or facilitate the violation. 21 U.S.C. ~853.
- (5) Ineligibility to receive or purchase a firearm. 18 U.S.C. ~922(g).
- (6) Miscellaneous: Revocation of certain federal licenses and benefits, e.g. pilot licenses, public housing tenancy, are vested within the authority of individual federal agencies.

## **G. Health Risks Associated with Use of Illegal Drugs; Abuse of Alcohol/ Drugs**

1. Alcohol:
  - a. Ethyl alcohol, or ethanol, is an intoxicating ingredient found in beer, wine, and liquor. Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. It is a central nervous system depressant that is rapidly absorbed from the stomach and small intestine into the bloodstream. Alcohol affects every organ of the drinker's body, impairing brain function and motor skills. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increases the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects just described.
  - b. Repeated abuse of alcohol can lead to dependence and sudden cessation of is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life threatening. Heavy use can lead to permanent damage of vital organs such as the brain and the liver, increasing risk of certain cancers, stroke, and liver disease.
  - c. Infants and children develop fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) or have other damage as a result of maternal alcohol intake during pregnancy. In severe cases, children with FAS are born with physical abnormalities and mental retardation. But central

nervous system damage leading to learning problems, lack of impulse control, hyperactivity and emotional/social difficulties in children can occur with even small amounts of maternal alcohol intake. There is no safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

2. Bath Salts:

- a. The term “bath salts” refers to an emerging family of drugs containing one or more synthetic chemicals related to cathinone, an amphetamine-like stimulant found naturally in the khat plant. Reports of severe intoxication and dangerous health effects associated with use of bath salts have made these drugs a serious and growing public health and safety issue. The synthetic cathinones in bath salts can produce euphoria and increased sociability and sex drive, but some users experience paranoia, agitation, and hallucinatory delirium; some even display psychotic and violent behavior, and deaths have been reported in several instances.
- b. The energizing and often agitating effects reported in people who have taken bath salts are consistent with other drugs like amphetamines and cocaine that raise the level of the neurotransmitter dopamine in brain circuits regulating reward and movement. Common reactions reported for people who have needed medical attention after using bath salts include cardiac symptoms (such as racing heart, high blood pressure, and chest pains) and psychiatric symptoms including paranoia, hallucinations, and panic attacks, dehydration, breakdown of skeletal muscle tissue, and kidney failure. Intoxication from several synthetic cathinones including MDPV, mephedrone, methedrone, and butylone has proved fatal in several instances.

3. Club Drugs:

- Club drugs include GHB, Rohypnol, ketamine, as well as MDMA (Ecstasy) and methamphetamine. GHB, Rohypnol, and ketamine are central nervous system depressants which, produce intoxicating effects, and at high doses, may result in sleep, coma, seizures, or death. Ecstasy and methamphetamines are central nervous system stimulants, which can produce feelings of increased energy, distortions in sensory and time perception, and at high doses can cause liver, kidney, or cardiovascular system failure or even death
- b. **GHB** has anabolic effects and may produce seizures or coma. Repeated use may lead to severe withdrawal effects, including insomnia, anxiety, tremors, and sweating. Rohypnol (often known as “the date rape drug”) can produce amnesia and both drugs have been used to commit sexual assaults due to their ability to sedate and incapacitate victims.
  - c. **Ketamine**, a dissociative anesthetic, mostly used in veterinary practice, produces distortions and feelings of detachment. Low-dose intoxication results in impaired attention, learning ability, and memory. At higher doses, can cause dreamlike states, hallucinations, delirium, amnesia, impaired motor function, high blood pressure, and potentially fatal respiratory problems.
  - d. **MDMA** (Ecstasy), a synthetic psychoactive drug, acts as a stimulant and hallucinogen that can deplete the brain of serotonin, causing confusion, depression, sleep abnormalities, problems with attention and memory, and anxiety.
  - e. **Methamphetamine** is similar in structure to amphetamine. It is highly addictive and causes emotional and cognitive problems in chronic methamphetamine abusers. Taking even small amounts can result in many of the same physical effects as those



of other stimulants, such as cocaine or amphetamines, including increased wakefulness, increased physical activity, decreased appetite, increased respiration, rapid heart rate, irregular heartbeat, increased blood pressure, and hyperthermia. Long-term methamphetamine abuse has many negative health consequences, including extreme weight loss, severe dental problems (“meth mouth”), anxiety, confusion, insomnia, mood disturbances, and violent behavior. Chronic methamphetamine abusers can also display a number of psychotic features, including paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations, and delusions (for example, the sensation of insects crawling under the skin).

4. Cocaine:
  - a. Cocaine (and crack, a form of cocaine processed to make a rock crystal—also called “freebase cocaine”) stimulates the central nervous system and is a powerfully addictive stimulant drug that produces potentially dangerous physical effects like raising heart rate and blood pressure. In order to sustain the “high”, users take increased dosages which easily leads to addiction.
  - b. With repeated use, cocaine can cause long-term changes in brain functioning and can cause heart attacks, strokes, and death. Immediate effects include dilated pupils, constricted blood vessels, elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate and body temperature. Depending on the method of taking it, cocaine use can cause sinus problems, ulcerated mucous membranes, severe bowel gangrene, as well as increased risk for contracting HIV, hepatitis C, and other blood-borne diseases.
  - c. Cocaine users can experience psychological and physical dependency, as well as severe paranoia auditory hallucinations.
  
5. Hallucinogens:
  - a. **Phencyclidine (PCP)** interrupts the functions of the neocortex, the section of the brain that controls the intellect and keeps instincts in check. Because the drug blocks pain receptors, violent PCP episodes may result in self-inflicted injuries. The effects of PCP vary, but users frequently report a sense of distance and estrangement. Time and body movements are slowed down. Muscular coordination worsens and senses are dulled. Speech is blocked and incoherent. Chronic users of PCP report persistent memory problems and speech difficulties. Some of these effects may last 6 months to a year following prolonged daily use. Mood disorders--depression, anxiety and violent behavior--also occur. In later stages of chronic use, users often exhibit paranoid and violent behavior and experience hallucinations. Large doses may produce convulsions and coma, as well as heart and lung failure.
  - b. **Lysergic acid (LSD)**, mescaline and psilocybin cause illusions and hallucinations. The physical effects may include dilated pupils, elevated body temperature, increased heart rate and blood pressure, loss of appetite, sleeplessness and tremors. Sensations and feelings may change rapidly. It is common to have a bad psychological reaction to LSD, mescaline and psilocybin. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety and loss of control. Delayed effects, or flashbacks, can occur even after use has ceased.
  
6. Heroin:

- a. An opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine, heroin is used in ways that deliver the drug to the brain very rapidly which causes extreme health risks and high risk for addiction. Immediate effects include dry mouth, flushed skin, feeling of heaviness in the extremities, and clouded mental function. Regular heroin use changes the functioning of the brain.
- b. Heroin abuse is associated with a number of serious health conditions, including fatal overdose, spontaneous abortion, and infectious diseases like hepatitis C and HIV. In addition to the effects of the drug itself, street heroin often contains toxic contaminants or additives that can clog blood vessels leading to the lungs, liver, kidneys, or brain, causing permanent damage to vital organs.

#### 7. Inhalants:

- a. Many common products—spray paints, markers, glues, and cleaning fluids—contain volatile substances that have psychoactive (mind-altering) properties when inhaled. Most abused inhalants depress the central nervous system in a manner not unlike alcohol. The effects are similar—including slurred speech, lack of coordination, euphoria, and dizziness. Inhalant abusers may also experience light-headedness, hallucinations, and delusions. The immediate negative effects of inhalants include nausea, sneezing, coughing, nosebleeds, and fatigue. Solvents and aerosol sprays also decrease the heart and respiratory rates and impair judgment. Amyl and butyl nitrates cause rapid pulse, headaches and involuntary passing of urine and feces. More serious long-term consequences may include liver and kidney damage, hearing loss, bone marrow damage, limb spasms due to damage to myelin, brain damage, and hepatitis.
- b. Deeply inhaling the vapors, or using large amounts over a short time, may result in disorientation, violent behavior, unconsciousness, or death. High concentrations can cause suffocation by displacing the oxygen in the lungs or by depressing the central nervous system to the point that breathing stops.
- c. Long-term use can cause weight loss, fatigue, electrolyte imbalance, and muscle fatigue. Repeated sniffing of concentrated vapors over time can permanently damage the nervous system.

#### 8. Marijuana:

- a. The main psychoactive (mind-altering) chemical in marijuana is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). All forms of cannabis (i.e., marijuana, hashish) have negative physical and mental effects. Several regularly observed physical effects of cannabis are a substantial increase in the heart rate, bloodshot eyes, a dry mouth and throat and increased appetite.
- b. When cannabis is smoked, THC rapidly passes from the lungs into the bloodstream, which carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body. Because users often inhale the unfiltered smoke deeply and then hold it in their lungs as long as possible, marijuana is damaging to the lungs and pulmonary system. Marijuana smoke contains more cancer-causing agents than tobacco smoke.
- c. Effects of cannabis use include distorted perceptions, impaired coordination, difficulty with thinking, problem solving, and disrupted learning and memory, which also reduce ability to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination, such as driving a car. Long-term cannabis users generally report lower life satisfaction,

poorer mental and physical health, relationship problems, and less academic and career success compared to their peers who came from similar backgrounds.

- e. **Synthetic marijuana:** Sold under many names, “spice” drugs, including K2, fake weed, Yucatan Fire, Skunk, Moon Rocks, and others, have a strong potential for abuse. The Drug Enforcement Administration has designated the five active chemicals most frequently found in Spice as controlled substances. The effects are similar to marijuana but have also been known to produce extreme anxiety, paranoia, and hallucinations.

9. **Prescription Drugs and Cold Medicines:**

Some medications have psychoactive (mind-altering) properties and, because of that, are sometimes abused—that is, taken for reasons or in ways or amounts not intended by a doctor, or taken by someone other than the person for whom they are prescribed. Taken as intended, prescription and OTC drugs safely treat specific mental or physical symptoms. But when taken in different quantities or when such symptoms aren’t present, they may affect the brain in ways very similar to illicit drugs.

- a. **Depressants.** The effects of depressants (e.g., Valium, Xanax, Nembutal) are in many ways similar to the effects of alcohol. Small amounts can produce calmness and relaxed muscles, but somewhat larger doses can cause slurred speech, staggering gait and altered perception. Very large doses can cause respiratory depression, coma and death. The combination of depressants and alcohol can multiply the effects of the drugs, thereby multiplying the risks. The use of depressants can cause both physical and psychological dependence causing withdrawal symptoms ranging from restlessness, insomnia and anxiety to convulsions and death. Birth defects and behavioral problems also may result.
- b. **Opioids.** Opioid pain relievers, such as Vicodin or Oxycontin, attach to the same cell receptors targeted by illegal opioids like heroin. Opioids can produce drowsiness, cause constipation, and—depending upon the amount taken—depress breathing. The latter effect makes opioids particularly dangerous, especially when they are snorted or injected or combined with other drugs or alcohol.
- c. **Stimulants.** Amphetamines (Adderall), Dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine), and Methylphenidate (Ritalin and Conerta) are central nervous system stimulant prescribed drugs that, when abused, can cause increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils, hyperthermia, and decreased appetite. In addition, users may experience sweating, headaches, blurred vision, dizziness, sleeplessness and anxiety. Extremely high doses can cause a rapid or irregular heartbeat, tremors, loss of coordination, physical collapse, and even death. Abuse of stimulant injections cause a sudden increase in blood pressure that can result in stroke, very high fever, or heart failure. Persons who use large amounts of stimulants over a long period of time can develop a psychosis that includes hallucinations, delusions and paranoia. The symptoms usually disappear when drug use ceases.
- d. **OTC Drugs.** The most commonly abused Over the Counter drugs are cough and cold remedies containing dextromethorphan. When taken in very high doses, dextromethorphan acts on the same cell receptors as PCP or ketamine, producing similar out-of-body experiences. Dextromethorphan can cause impaired motor function, numbness, nausea or vomiting, and increased heart rate and blood pressure. On rare occasions, hypoxic brain damage—caused by severe respiratory

depression and a lack of oxygen to the brain—has occurred due to the combination of dextromethorphan with decongestants often found in the medication.

10. Steroids (Anabolic):

Anabolic steroids can be legally prescribed to treat conditions resulting from steroid hormone deficiency. But some athletes, bodybuilders, and others abuse these drugs in an attempt to enhance performance and/or improve their physical appearance.

- a. Anabolic steroids work very differently from other drugs of abuse, and they do not have the same acute effects on the brain. The most important difference is that steroids do not trigger rapid increases in the neurotransmitter dopamine, which is responsible for the rewarding “high” that drives the abuse of other substances.
- b. Long-term steroid use can affect some of the same brain pathways and chemicals—including dopamine, serotonin, and opioid systems—that are affected by other drugs, and thereby may have a significant impact on mood and behavior.
- c. Abuse of anabolic steroids may lead to aggression, extreme mood swings (“roid rage”), violence, paranoid jealousy, extreme irritability, delusions, and impaired judgment.

11. Tobacco/Nicotine:

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States. Exposure to secondhand smoke can cause serious diseases and death.

- a. Cigarettes and other forms of tobacco—including cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, and chewing tobacco—contain the addictive drug nicotine. Nicotine is readily absorbed into the bloodstream when a tobacco product is chewed, inhaled, or smoked. Upon entering the bloodstream, nicotine immediately stimulates the adrenal glands to release the hormone epinephrine (adrenaline). Epinephrine stimulates the central nervous system and increases blood pressure, respiration, and heart rate.
- b. Similar to other addictive drugs like cocaine and heroin, nicotine increases levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine, which affects the brain pathways that control reward and pleasure.
- c. **E-Cigarettes.** Although the vapor does not contain the tar responsible for most lung cancer and other lung diseases, it has been shown to contain known carcinogens and toxic chemicals (such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde), as well as potentially toxic metal nanoparticles from the vaporizing mechanism. E-cigarette products are not regulated by the FDA, so there are currently no accepted measures to confirm their purity or safety, and the long-term health consequence of e-cigarette use remain unknown. early evidence suggests that e-cigarette use may not only put users at risk for nicotine addiction but also serve as an introduction to nicotine that could lead to use of regular cigarettes and other tobacco products.

*Description of Health Risks obtained from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, updated August 2015 (<http://www.drugabuse.gov>)*

## H. Program Review

The University will conduct a biennial review of this program to determine its effectiveness, make changes where necessary and ensure that it is consistently followed.

**I. Program Notification**

Every student and employee receives a copy of the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Policy annually through campus electronic mail, the official notification system of the university. New staff and faculty members are informed of the policy at New Employee Orientation. Additional copies of the program can be obtained from the office of the Vice President for Student Development. In addition to the annual notification, students and employees are offered written material including pamphlets and literature on drug and alcohol abuse through the campus health center.