

<begin excerpt from Student Handbook>

## **D. DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

The College of Mount St. Joseph seeks to provide an environment in which students may experience intellectual, emotional, physical, social, and personal growth. The development of the capacity to make informed decisions about drugs, including responsible choices about the consumption of alcohol, is a significant component of personal growth. The responsibility for making informed choices regarding drugs and the use of alcohol rests with all members of the College community: students, faculty, and staff.

A comprehensive drug and alcohol education program supports members of the College community in making informed and responsible decisions about drugs and alcohol. This program has three primary components: first, to provide members of the College community with education regarding the academic, social, legal, and health-related effects of drug and alcohol use and misuse; second, to provide access and referral for the assessment of and treatment for individuals with drug and alcohol-related problems in cooperation with community agencies; and third, to provide for individual freedom while promoting the health, safety, and welfare of all members of the College community. It is assumed that the College's commitment to providing education in addition to health, counseling, and ongoing support services will be matched by responsible behavior with respect to alcohol and other drugs.

The College's drug and alcohol policy applies to students and to student organizations conducting activities and events on and off campus and supplements, rather than replaces, the Student Life Standards and Disciplinary Policy and Procedure, including all policies, offenses, procedures and sanctions set forth therein. This policy also applies to a student's misusing a drug prescribed to him or her by a physician.

In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Chapters 2925 and 4301 (2008), the College of Mount St. Joseph prohibits the illegal use, possession, sale, manufacture, or distribution of drugs, including alcohol, and drug paraphernalia. In addition, the misuse of substances that present physical or psychological hazards to individuals is prohibited; This includes synthetic versions of marijuana, THC, and stimulants, or beverages that combine both alcohol and caffeine (4Loko and similar brands). It is the College's intention that its policies comply with State and local laws governing the use, distribution, and consumption of alcohol (Refer to section C.2. for policies regarding alcohol in the residence hall).

### **1. HEALTH EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND/OR OTHER DRUGS**

The use of alcohol and/or other drugs has many possible health effects. There are both short term and long term effects of drug and alcohol use. In addition,

overdose and withdrawal from alcohol and/or other drugs can produce additional effects on a person's health.

- Alcohol** The use of alcohol can lead to impaired judgment and coordination, problems with vision and hearing, respiratory depression, increased aggression, liver and heart disease, pancreatitis, and cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, and/or voice box. Overdosing on alcohol can cause staggering, loss of coordination, slurred speech, dilated pupils, and nerve and liver damage. In women, consuming alcohol while pregnant can lead to fetal alcohol syndrome in babies. Abruptly terminating heavy long term usage can result in withdrawal symptoms that include sweating, tremors, altered perception, psychosis, fear, and auditory hallucinations.
- Narcotics** The use of narcotics may result in drowsiness, confusion, nausea, constricted pupils, and respiratory depression. Effects of overdosing on narcotics include slow, shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death. Withdrawal symptoms of narcotics use include watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, cramps, loss of appetite, irritability, nausea, tremors, panic, chills, and sweating.
- Depressants** The use of depressants can lead to slurred speech, difficulty concentrating, impaired judgment and coordination, and respiratory depression. Overdosing from depressant use can produce effects such as shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and/or rapid pulse, coma, and possible death. Withdrawal symptoms include anxiety, insomnia, muscle tremors, loss of appetite, convulsions, delirium, and death.
- Stimulants** The use of stimulants may include anxiety, blurred vision, impaired coordination, decreased appetite, increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, and delusions. Overdosing can lead to agitation, increased body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, and possible death. Withdrawal symptoms seen in stimulant users include apathy, long periods of sleep, irritability, depression, and disorientation.
- Hallucinogens** The use of hallucinogens may lead to confusion, violent behavior, anxiety, hallucinations, illusions, depression, distorted perception of time, convulsions, psychosis, flashbacks and after usage has ceased, heart and lung failure, irreversible brain damage, and coma. Overdosing on a hallucinogen can produce effects such as longer, more intense "trip" episodes, psychosis, coma, and death. There are no known withdrawal symptoms of hallucinogen use.

**Cannabis** The use of cannabis may cause loss of appetite, impaired balance, coordination, memory and concentration, disoriented behavior, fluctuating emotions, increased risk of cancer, and psychosis. Overdosing on cannabis can lead to fatigue, lack of coordination, paranoia, and psychosis. Withdrawal symptoms include insomnia, hyperactivity, and decreased appetite.

**Steroids** The use of steroids may result in weight and muscle gains and aggressive behavior. Effects of overdosing on steroids are quick weight and muscle gains, extremely aggressive behavior or “roid rage”, severe skin rashes, impotence, and development of irreversible masculine traits in females. Symptoms of withdrawal may include significant weight loss, depression, behavioral changes, and trembling.

## **2. ALCOHOL POLICY GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND THE RESIDENCE HALL**

The decision to drink is a personal one. MSJ residence hall policies foster an atmosphere conducive to individual choice and responsible consumption of alcohol. *However, if you misuse or abuse alcohol, you are held responsible for your behavior.* In addition to complying with all applicable laws (see Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4301 (2008):

- Persons under the age of 21 may not purchase, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages on campus or at a College sponsored event off-campus.
- Persons of legal drinking age may not supply alcohol to individuals under the age of 21.
- The misrepresentation of age or falsification of identification cards or use of another person’s identification is prohibited.
- The opening or consumption of alcoholic beverages in a motor vehicle is prohibited.

Possession and consumption of legal beverages in your room is permitted when in accordance with Residence Life policy and consistent with Ohio Revised Code, provided, however, that:

- When one roommate is not of legal drinking age then the entire room is to be alcohol free and no alcohol may be stored or consumed in said room.
- Individuals under the age of 21 may not be in the presence of alcohol when consumed by a person of legal drinking age in a student room.
- No alcohol is permitted at group events in residence hall facilities. Alcohol is not permitted in elevators, stairwells, lounges, lobbies, public hallways, Seton Center public area, or on campus grounds unless designated.
- Quantities of alcohol exceeding the following personal use limits are not

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allowed in any resident's room. The limits are 1 liter of wine or 2 pints of spirits, or 12 standard size cans/bottles of beer or malt beverages (including wine coolers, Zima, hard lemonade, etc.) per legal aged resident assigned to the specific room. Spiked punch, "Jello" shots and grain alcohol are not allowed. Drinking games and drinking paraphernalia are not permitted.

- Kegs and large containers used for the purpose of holding alcohol are prohibited in residence halls.
- Alcohol-related conduct that infringes upon the enjoyment of others of a quiet, orderly living environment is not acceptable.
- Pyramids or displays of empty beverage containers, possession and/or display of drug and/or alcohol-related paraphernalia are prohibited in the Seton Residence Hall.
- You are required to provide a valid state driver's license or a state ID card as proof of your eligibility to consume and/or possess alcohol.

### **3. ALCOHOL POLICY GUIDELINES FOR COLLEGE EVENTS**

Alcohol is a drug that may be possessed, sold, distributed, or consumed at specified and approved College-sponsored or affiliated events in accordance with applicable laws and College policy. The following guidelines are intended to assist event planners in developing responsible practices, which are consistent with the College Alcohol policy.

The guidelines are not intended to be all-inclusive. Event planning should be comprehensive and specific attention be given to the event's purpose, the age of the participants, and environmental and safety precautions.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Students, student organizations, and administrative units must comply with all applicable laws and College regulations regarding use and availability of alcohol.
  - a. Officers, planners, and advisors of organizations that sponsor events at which alcohol is available shall be familiar with applicable laws and College policy governing consumption of alcohol and the potential legal liability associated with the sale or serving of alcoholic beverages. The Department of Public Safety may be consulted in this regard.
  - b. Individuals and organizations sponsoring an event shall ensure that alcoholic beverages are not accessible to or served to persons under the legal drinking age or to persons who appear intoxicated. This includes, but is not limited to, checking identification (valid state driver's license or state ID) to determine age. Sponsors shall also refuse to serve persons whose behavior suggests that they are intoxicated.
  - c. At functions where alcoholic beverages are provided by the sponsoring organization, direct access to the alcohol shall be limited to a person(s) designated as the server(s). Alcohol can only be served by the alcohol

- liquor license holder and/or their employee(s).
- d. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted only within the area designated for the event.
  - e. Alcohol education information can be obtained through the Department of Public Safety and/or the Wellness Center, and information, including but not limited to notice of the legal drinking age, shall be posted and/or available at events where alcohol will be served.
  - f. Student Organizations must seek permission to serve alcohol at their event through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at least three weeks prior to the actual event and before any promotional materials are distributed.
  - g. The sponsoring organization is responsible for contacting the Director of Public Safety to arrange for security coverage during events.
  - h. If an off-campus function includes alcoholic beverages, the sponsoring organizations must adhere to the established College alcohol guideline.
2. Students, student organizations, faculty, staff, and administrative units should discourage abuse and excessive consumption of alcohol.
- a. There shall be a purpose for any gathering other than the availability of alcohol.
  - b. Social events shall not include any form of “drinking contests” or give away alcoholic beverages as prizes.
  - c. Alcohol shall not be available at or be a part of membership recruitment functions.
  - d. The quantity of alcohol purchased and/or sold at an event shall be carefully planned. The quantity of alcohol purchased for an event shall be limited to three drinks per person of legal drinking age in attendance. Alcohol may only be served in the following prescribed portions per drink: Beer must be sold in cans not to exceed 12 ounces; wine in servings not to exceed 5 ounces; and mixed drinks in servings not to exceed 1.5 ounces of liquor.
  - e. Alcohol may not be brought into an event.
  - f. Food shall be readily available at any event at which alcoholic beverages are served. The recommended expenditure is that one third of total refreshment budget shall be spent on food and nonalcoholic beverages. Food served shall not be limited to salty foods that increase thirst, such as popcorn, chips, and pretzels.
  - g. “Punches” made with grain-alcohol or random combinations of beer and/or intoxicating liquor are prohibited.
  - h. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs must approve all advertising and/or promotional materials for events involving alcohol prior to dissemination. Such advertising should not focus on alcohol or

encourage excessive consumption. In fact, advertising shall make no reference to the availability of alcohol.

- i. Advertising shall focus on the purpose of the event rather than on the availability of alcohol.
  - ii. The availability of alcohol shall not be used as an inducement to participate in events.
  - iii. Brand names, logos, and symbols of alcohol (kegs, mugs, etc.) may not appear on promotional material.
  - iv. Advertising shall not portray drinking as a solution to personal or academic problems of students.
  - v. Advertising should not encourage any form of alcohol abuse.
- i. College officials, in their sole discretion, reserve the right to deny access to an event, limit the amount of alcohol possessed/purchased/consumed, or ask an individual to leave an event based on behavior that suggests intoxication.
3. Students, student organizations, and administrative units shall respect the decision of persons who are of legal drinking age and choose to drink responsibly as well as the decision of persons who choose not to drink.
- a. Persons who choose not to drink shall not be harassed or coerced into consuming alcoholic beverages.
  - b. Non-alcoholic beverages shall be made available at the same location as alcoholic beverages, and should be featured as prominently. Groups are encouraged to serve no/low-alcohol beer.
  - c. Non-alcoholic beverages served shall be a popular brand and presented in an appealing way which does not stigmatize persons who choose not to drink.
  - d. Persons who choose not to drink shall be permitted to participate in all activities, which are a part of an event.
  - e. Persons under 18 years of age without a Mount College ID may not be admitted to events at which alcohol is served unless accompanied by a Mount community member.

#### **4. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR ALCOHOL OFFENSES**

Disruptive behavior to the campus and surrounding community-directly related to the use of alcohol or other substances is prohibited. Students who, after using alcohol or other drugs, become physically or verbally abusive, or refuse to cooperate with College staff members (including student employees and all volunteers) who are performing their duties, are in violation of this policy. This includes, but is not limited to: fighting, disruptive behavior, loss of consciousness, destruction of private or public property, and harassment of others.

The College of Mount St. Joseph attempts to ensure the safest environment

possible so that the educational process is not hindered unnecessarily. Therefore, the College deems it necessary to have penalties and/or special restrictions for the violation of its drug and alcohol policy. The College believes these penalties serve the best interest of the College community as a whole and the students who violate the policy.

- 1. Penalties:** In addition to all other sanctions and penalties otherwise available, violation of the alcohol and/or drug policy includes but is not limited to the following penalties:
- a. First Offense: Requires disciplinary probation and fine ranging from \$50-\$100. Additionally, disciplinary penalties may include educational sanctions and parental notification.
  - b. Second Offense: Requires disciplinary probation, fine ranging from \$75-\$125, parental notification, and mandatory participation in a comprehensive substance abuse assessment and compliance with the assessment's recommendations, including counseling if necessary. Any cost associated with the assessment and/or off-campus counseling is the responsibility of the student.
  - c. Third Offense: May result in suspension from the College either immediately or at the end of the semester. The student may return only after evidence of the successful completion of a treatment or counseling program for alcohol or other drug abuse or weekly attendance at an appropriate self-help group, i.e., Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous. Further attendance at such a group is required as long as the violator attends the College. Violations of policy relating to the possession, use, or sale of illicit drugs are referred to the Vice President for Student Affairs for appropriate sanctions.

Verification of registration for subsequent semesters could be withheld until the student complies or is in the process of complying with the penalties assessed for the first and second offenses.

#### **5. FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PENALTIES FOR DRUG LAW VIOLATIONS**

Students who are currently enrolled and are completing the FAFSA will be asked: "Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid?"

Students who answer "Yes" will be asked an additional series of questions to determine if the conviction affects their eligibility for federal student aid.

Students convicted of a federal or state offense of selling or possessing illegal drugs that occurred while they were receiving federal student aid should still complete and submit the FAFSA to determine if there is aid for which they are still eligible. Students who leave question 23 blank cannot receive federal financial aid until they respond by making a correction to their FAFSA.

A student who has been convicted of possession or sale of illegal drugs loses Title IV eligibility for a period of time specified in law. The period of ineligibility depends on whether the conviction was for possession or sale of (including conspiring to sell) illegal drugs. If convicted of both the longer period of ineligibility applies.

**For convictions involving possession, the periods of ineligibility are as follows:**

One conviction: one year after the date of conviction.

Two convictions: two years after the date of the second conviction.

Three or more convictions: indefinite from the date of the third conviction

**For convictions involving sale, the periods of ineligibility are as follows:**

One conviction: two years after the date of conviction.

Two or more convictions: indefinite from the date of the second conviction.

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for federal financial aid. Convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV aid—they do not count if the offense was not during such a period. Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record does not count, nor does one received when the student was a juvenile, unless the student was tried as an adult.

**Regaining Eligibility**

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.

A student whose Title IV eligibility has been suspended indefinitely may regain eligibility only by successfully completing a drug rehabilitation program. A student who is under a one- or two-year penalty may regain eligibility before the expiration of the period of ineligibility by successfully completing a drug rehabilitation program. If the student successfully completes an approved drug rehabilitation program, eligibility is regained on the date the student successfully completes the program. It is the student's responsibility to certify to the school that he/ she has successfully completed the rehabilitation program.

To qualify the student for eligibility, the drug rehabilitation program must include at least two unannounced drug tests, and:

- have received or be qualified to receive funds directly or indirectly under a Federal, State, or local government program; or
- be administered or recognized by a Federal, State, or local government agency or court; or
- have received or be qualified to receive payment directly or indirectly from a Federally- or State licensed insurance company; or
- be administered or recognized by a Federally- or State-licensed hospital, health clinic or medical doctor.

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