

Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policy

The purpose of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse prevention regulations is to implement section 22 of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, which added section 1213 to the Higher Education Act. These Amendments require that, as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any Federal program, an institution of higher education (**IHE**) must certify that it has adopted and implemented a drug prevention program as described in this part.



MIDWEST INSTITUTE

2024

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Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 requires Midwest Institute to certify that it has adopted and implemented a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program as a condition of receiving federal funds and financial assistance. The law further requires the annual distribution of written policies to each enrolled student. In accordance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 and Midwest Institute's mission, this document restates the school's commitment to maintaining an environment which is free of impairment and encourages both academic, professional and personal growth and development.

The Midwest Institute Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program is distributed to students during new student orientation and to new employees upon hire. It is accessible online at <https://www.midwestinstitute.edu/student-consumer-information/> under Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program link

Midwest Institutes distributes a notice annually to students and employees and are directed to the link to the digital version of this policy

Policy Statement:

This policy statement applies to all students enrolled in Midwest Institute campus site listed below and including students taking classes within the schools Online/Distance Learning Programs:

Midwest Institute 4260 Shoreline Dr. Earth City MO. 63045

It is the goal of Midwest Institute to protect the public health and environment of its members by promoting an environment free of illicit drug use and alcohol abuse. The manufacture, distribution, possession or use of illicit drugs, and the unlawful possession, use or distribution of alcohol on any Midwest Institute Campus or at any Midwest Institute event is prohibited.

Standards of Conduct – Illicit Drugs

- The unlawful manufacture, possession, distribution, or use of illicit drugs on any Midwest Institute Campus or site by Midwest Institute students, employees, or their guests is strictly prohibited

Standards of Conduct – Alcohol

- Federal legislation prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of alcohol. The laws of all states are in compliance with federal law, which prohibits persons less than 21 years of age from the possession or use of alcohol. The unlawful manufacture, possession, distribution, or use of alcohol on any Midwest Institute Campus or site by Midwest Institute students, employees, or their guests is strictly prohibited

Definitions:

1. Illegal drugs are defined a substance or substances defined and regulated under the provisions of the Federal Controlled Substance Act and of Missouri Revised Statutes Chapter 579 Controlled Substance Offenses <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneChapter.aspx?chapter=579>), and includes but is not limited to CNS depressants, CNS stimulants, hallucinogens, other illegal drugs such as PCP and cocaine or crack.
2. "Use of a drug" includes possession of drug paraphernalia; use, possession, manufacture, sale or distribution, on or off campus, of any one or more illegal drugs as before mentioned. It also includes misuse of prescription medication.
3. "On campus means any building, facility, grounds or other property owned, leased or controlled by Midwest Institute and any building, facility, grounds or other property owned, leased or controlled by Midwest Institute affiliates during an externship.
4. Authorities are defined as the St. Louis County Police Department and any respondents associated with the department who enforces Missouri Law.

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Legal Sanctions:

Drugs: In the United States the manufacture possession, sale, distribution and use of illicit drugs is prohibited by city, county, state, and federal law. Sanctions range from small fines to life imprisonment, depending on the type of drug and several other factors (See Chart One).

In countries other than the United States, sanctions vary. Contact the office of the campus director for specific information if applicable.

Alcohol: Each state has specific statutes which detail sanctions for the illegal purchase or possession of intoxicating liquor. For example, in the state of Missouri, violation of state statutes governing the use or possession of alcohol may result in fines of between \$50 and \$1000 and/or imprisonment for a maximum of one year. County and municipal ordinances contain similar prohibitions and sanctions. Contact the office of the campus director for information regarding provision of applicable ordinances and statutes at your particular campus location.

Online Blended Programs: Students enrolled in online/hybrid programs are reminded that they may be subject to arrest and legal sanctions for drug and alcohol offenses under the laws of their particular country, state, or county in addition to Midwest Institute action.

For Additional Information See Attached:

[Drug Offenses: Maximum Fines and Terms of Imprisonment for Violation of the Federal Controlled Substances Act and Related Laws](#)

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Health Risks Associated with the Use of Illicit Drugs and the Abuse of Alcohol:

If you think it is safe to engage in "recreational" drug use or "social" drinking, you could be dead wrong. The fact is that drugs and alcohol are toxic to your body and if abused can have catastrophic consequences on your health. Some drugs, such as crack, are so toxic that even one experimental use can be fatal. When it comes to drugs and alcohol, what you don't know cannot only hurt you, it can kill you.

Midwest Institute believes that the better informed you are about the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol, the more likely you are to avoid these substances altogether or to seek help if you become the victim of a chemical dependence. Therefore, the following is a summary of the various health risks associated with alcohol abuse and use of specific types of drugs. This summary is not intended to be an exhaustive or final statement of all possible consequences to your health of substance abuse, but rather is intended to increase your awareness of the grave risks involved in this kind of behavior.

Alcohol Use and Abuse

Alcohol-related automobile accidents are the number one cause of death among people ages 15 through 24. Approximately 50 percent of all youthful deaths from drowning, fires, suicide, and homicide are alcohol-related. Furthermore, alcohol and other drug use is often a factor in date rape.

Repeated use of alcohol can lead to physical and psychological dependence. Dependent persons who suddenly stop drinking are likely to suffer withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life threatening. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver.

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents have an increased risk of becoming alcoholics themselves.

Use of Illicit Drugs

Drugs interfere with the brain's ability to take in, sort, and synthesize information. They distort perception, which can lead users to harm themselves or others. Drug use also affects sensation and impairs memory. In addition to these general effects, specific health risks associated with particular types of drugs are discussed below.

Cocaine/Crack: Cocaine use is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States. One reason for this is the ready availability of cocaine in a cheap but potent form called crack or rock. Cocaine stimulates the central nervous system. Its immediate effects include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature. Occasional use can cause a stuffy or runny nose, while chronic use can ulcerate the mucous membrane of the nose. Injecting cocaine with contaminated equipment can cause Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), hepatitis, and other diseases.

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Preparation of freebase, which involves the use of volatile solvents, can result in death or injury from fire or explosion. Cocaine can produce psychological and physical dependency, a feeling that the user cannot function without the drug. In addition, tolerance develops rapidly thus leading to higher and higher doses to produce the desired effect.

Crack or freebase rock is a purified form of cocaine that is smoked. Crack is far more addictive than heroin or barbiturates. Repeated use of crack can lead to addiction within a few days. Once addicted, many users have turned to stealing, prostitution, and drug dealing in order to support their habit. The effects of crack are felt within 10 seconds. The physical effects include dilated pupils, increased pulse rate, elevated blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite, tactile hallucinations, paranoia, and seizures. Continued use can produce violent behavior and psychotic states similar to schizophrenia.

Cocaine in any form, but particularly in the purified form known as crack, can cause sudden death from cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

Marijuana: Marijuana use causes a substantial increase in the heart rate, bloodshot eyes, a dry mouth and throat, increased appetite, and it may impair short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, and reduce ability to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination, such as driving a car. Research also shows that motivation and cognition may be altered, making the acquisition of new information difficult. When marijuana contains 2 percent Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), it can cause severe psychological damage, including paranoia and psychosis. Since the early 1980s, most marijuana has contained from 4 to 6 percent THC - two or three times the amount capable of causing serious damage.

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.

Long-term users of marijuana may develop psychological dependence and require more of the drug to get the same effect. The drug can become the center of their lives.

Narcotics: Narcotics such as heroin, codeine, and morphine often cause drowsiness, nausea, and vomiting. Users also may experience constricted pupils, watery eyes, and itching. An overdose may produce slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death. Tolerance to narcotics develops rapidly and dependence is likely. The use of contaminated syringes may result in diseases such as AIDS, endocarditis, and hepatitis. For pregnant women, addiction can lead to premature, stillborn, or addicted infants who experience severe withdrawal symptoms.

Amphetamines/Other Stimulants: Amphetamines (speed, uppers) and other stimulants can cause increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils, and decreased appetite. In addition, users may experience sweating, headache, blurred vision, dizziness, sleeplessness, and anxiety. Extremely high doses can cause a rapid or irregular heartbeat, tremors, loss of coordination, and even physical collapse. An amphetamine injection creates a sudden increase in blood pressure that can result in stroke, very high fever, or heart failure.

In addition to the physical effects, users report feeling restless, anxious, and moody. Higher doses intensify the effects. Persons who use large amounts of amphetamines over a long period of time can develop an amphetamine psychosis that includes hallucinations, delusions and paranoia.

Barbiturates/Other Depressants: Barbiturates (downers), methaqualone (Quaaludes), tranquilizers (valium), and other depressants have many of the same effects as alcohol. Small amounts can produce calmness and relaxed muscles, but somewhat larger doses can cause slurred speech, staggering, 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.

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The use of depressants can cause both physical and psychological dependence. Regular use over time may result in a tolerance to the drug, leading the user to increase the quantity consumed. When regular users suddenly stop taking large doses, they may develop withdrawal symptoms ranging from restlessness, insomnia, and anxiety, to convulsions and death.

Babies born to mothers who abuse depressants during pregnancy may be physically dependent on the drugs and show withdrawal symptoms shortly after they are born. Birth defects and behavioral problems also may result.

Hallucinogens: Phencyclidine (PCP, Angel Dust) interrupts the functions of the part 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 are unpredictable and can 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. 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.

Lysergic acid: LSD, Acid, mescaline, and psilocybin (mushrooms) 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.

Designer Drugs: Designer drugs are produced by underground chemists who attempt to avoid legal definitions of controlled substances by altering their molecular structure. These drugs can be several hundred times stronger than the drugs they are designed to imitate. Some of the designer drugs have been known to cause permanent brain damage with a single dose.

Many of the so-called designer drugs are related to amphetamines and have mild stimulant properties but are mostly euphorants. They can cause nausea, blurred vision, chills or sweating, and faintness. Psychological effects include anxiety, depression, and paranoia. As little as one dose can cause severe neurochemical brain damage. Narcotic designer drugs can cause symptoms such as those in Parkinson's disease: uncontrollable tremors, drooling, impaired speech, paralysis, and irreversible brain damage.

Inhalants: The immediate negative effects of inhalants (laughing gas, whippets) include nausea, sneezing, coughing, nosebleeds, fatigue, lack of coordination, and loss of appetite. Solvents and aerosol sprays also decrease the heart and respiratory rates and impair judgment. Amyl and butyl nitrite cause rapid pulse, headaches, and involuntary passing of urine and feces. Long-term use may result in hepatitis or brain damage.

Deeply inhaling the vapors, or using large amounts over a short time, may result in disorientation, violent behavior, unconsciousness, or death. High concentrations of inhalants can cause suffocation by displacing the oxygen in the lungs or by depressing the central nervous system to the point that breathing stops.

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.

Anabolic Steroids: Steroid users subject themselves to more than 70 side effects ranging in severity from liver cancer to acne and including psychological as well as physical reactions. The liver and the cardiovascular and reproductive systems are most seriously affected by steroid use. In males, use can cause withered testicles, sterility, and impotence. In females, irreversible masculine traits can develop along with breast reduction and sterility. Physical effects in both sexes include jaundice, purple or

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red spots on the body, swelling of feet or lower legs, trembling, unexplained darkening of the skin, and persistent unpleasant breath odor. Psychological effects in both sexes include very aggressive behavior known as "roid rage" and depression. While some side effects appear quickly, others, such as heart attacks and strokes, may not show up for years.

Help Centers:

The Center for substance Abuse Treatment and Referral Hotline:

- 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Narcotics Anonymous

- St. Louis 314-830-3232
- St. Charles 636-697-8406
- Metro East 618 – 398-9409

National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse:

- St. Louis Area 314-962-3456

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Penalties for Policy Violation:

Different disciplinary procedures are applicable to faculty, staff, and students. Violations of the standards of conduct will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis with the imposition of discipline being appropriate to the severity of the violation. For each group comprising the Midwest Institute community, there are certain common sanctions that could be applied in an appropriate case. These common sanctions include letters of reprimand, probation and severance of ties with Midwest Institute, through expulsion or termination. Normally, opportunity for referral to an appropriate rehabilitation program occurs and is usually associated with a first offense. Referral for prosecution will usually occur only for the most serious violations.

Midwest Institute will impose disciplinary sanction on students and employees (consistent with local, State and Federal law).

1.) Alcohol Misuse on Campus

- a. Students who violate the Midwest Institute Drug and Alcohol Policy are subject to the following sanctions:
 - i. **First Offense:** Parents of students under 21 years of age will be notified. Additional sanctions may include conduct withdrawal from program. If appropriate, removal from campus will be implemented and other restrictions may be assessed.
 - ii. **Second Offense:** Possible sanctions include required participation in an alcohol education activity, notification of parents for students less than 21 years of age and/or mandatory participation in the "Minor in Possession" course, which has a fee which is the sole responsibility of the student. Appropriate restrictions¹ and restitution² will be assessed if applicable.
 - iii. **Third Offense:** Conduct action may include withdrawal; notification of parents for students under 21 years of age; Student must provide proof of compliance with a personal counselor to be considered for reinstatement proceeding termination. Additional sanctions may include attendance at AA meetings and/or enrollment in an outpatient treatment program.

2.) Illegal Drug Possession/Misuse On Campus

- a. The following are Midwest Institute's sanctions for unlawful use, possession or distribution of controlled substances. This includes Medical Marijuana. Midwest Institute abides by Federal Law and prohibits the use of marijuana while attending any Program. This includes attending internship or clinic. Any student who tests positive for marijuana (THC) from a required drug test will not be allowed to attend internship and in violation of our policy. This will result in termination from the program. Note: Having a medical marijuana card does not exclude any student from this policy.
- b.
 - i. For the manufacture, sale or distribution of illegal drugs
 1. Termination from Midwest Institute and notification of legal authorities. Parents may also be notified for students under 21 years of age or older but who are dependents
 - ii. For the possession or use of drug paraphernalia and/or illegal drugs:
 1. **First Offense:** Immediate removal from campus; possible notification of parents for students under 21 years of age or who are older but dependents; 7 possible notification of appropriate legal authorities⁴ who are older but dependents; possible notification of appropriate legal authorities⁴.

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2. **Second Offense:** Termination from Midwest Institute; possible notification of parents for students under 21 years of age or who are older but dependents; possible notification of appropriate legal authorities.

Drug Free Workplace Policy

In compliance with the drug-free workplace requirements of Public Law 100-690 for recipients of federal contracts and grants, the following policy is in effect for Midwest Institute and is distributed to each employee annually no later than October 1st :

1. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited by Midwest Institute on any property owned, leased, or controlled by Midwest Institute or during any activity conducted, sponsored, authorized by, or on behalf of Midwest Institute. A controlled substance shall include any substance defined as a controlled substance in Section 102 of the Federal Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S. Code 802) or in the Missouri Uniform Controlled Substance Act (Missouri Revised Statutes Chapter 195, Drug Regulations, Section 195.010.1). This includes Medical Marijuana. Any employee who tests positive for marijuana (THC) from a required drug test will be in violation of our policy. This may result in termination. Note: Having a medical marijuana card does not exclude any employee from this policy.
2. Midwest Institute has and shall maintain a drug – free awareness program to inform employees concerning the following:
 - a. Drug counseling and rehabilitation programs
 - b. Maintenance of a drug-free workplace
 - c. Possible penalties for drug-abuse and rehabilitation violations
 - d. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace
3. Any employee who is convicted by any Federal or state Court on an offense that constitutes a violation of paragraph one shall notify the President of Midwest Institute in writing of said conviction within five (5) days after the conviction occurs. Conviction, as defined in P.L.100-690 shall mean finding of guilt (including plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence or both. Any employee who has been convicted by any Federal or State Court of an offense that constitutes a violation of paragraph one since completing his or her initial application shall notify the President immediately to avoid possible future complications.
4. In the event of a report of a conviction pursuant to paragraph four providing that the employee is working in a project or a program funded through a Federal contract or grant, Midwest Institute shall notify in writing within ten (10) days any Federal agency to whom such notification by Midwest Institute is required under P.L. 100-690.
5. In the event that an employee violates the provisions of paragraph one or receives a conviction as described in paragraph four, the respective employee shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action which may include, but is not limited to, termination of employment. Midwest Institute shall also reserve the right to require that an employee as a condition of continued employment, to complete a drug treatment or rehabilitation program of a reasonable duration and nature, at the employee's own expense.
6. Midwest Institute shall make a good faith effort to ensure that paragraphs 1-5 are followed.
7. Each employee at Midwest Institute shall receive a copy of this policy and where to access at any time.