
OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUBJECT:	Drug Prevention Program Policy
REVIEWED/REVISED:	7/2013; 8/2015; 12/2020; 3/2024
RELATED POLICY:	Alcohol & Drug Policy, Medical Amnesty Policy, College Code of Conduct, Drug Prevention Program, Campus Housing Handbook
PURPOSE:	To communicate Nebraska Methodist College's standards of conduct regarding illicit drugs and alcohol.
POLICY OWNER:	Dean of Students

Nebraska Methodist College Standards of Conduct regarding illicit drugs, alcohol, and/or mind-altering substances:

- It is a violation of the alcohol policy for students to consume or possess alcoholic beverages on campus.
- NMC students are expected to abide by federal, state and local laws.
- Student possession or consumption of alcohol, illicit drugs and/or mind-altering substances on campus or at any College-sponsored student event shall constitute misconduct. A College-sponsored event is any gathering where students are in attendance that is arranged or is endorsed by the College.
- Should a student attend class, clinical, laboratory sessions, practicums or College sponsored or approved events while under the influence of alcohol, drugs (illegal or prescribed), and/or mind-altering substances this shall constitute misconduct.
- Any student or student organization that violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate dismissal from the College.
- The manufacture, sale, possession, distribution or use of illegal drugs is prohibited.
- The College will cooperate fully with state and federal laws. Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 states in part, *"if a student is convicted of drug distribution or possession, the court may suspend eligibility of Title IV financial aid. If a student is convicted three or more times for drug distribution, he/she may become permanently ineligible to receive Title IV financial aid."*

Special Note: Healthcare providers hold a special responsibility to the public. Drug and Alcohol violations are taken seriously due to the professional nature of Nebraska Methodist College. The State of Nebraska licensing boards require an explanation and description of any misdemeanor or felony before State Boards are taken.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

Nebraska Methodist College encourages all members of the college community to maintain civic and social responsibility when making decisions regarding the use of alcoholic beverages. If a student demonstrates unsafe and/or unprofessional behavior and fails to achieve the standard of care, violates professional standards or state practice acts of each academic program, or calls into question the professional accountability of the student, corrective action will follow. Students are expected to adhere to the standards of behavior required of healthcare professionals. Depending upon the degree of actual or potential harm a client may suffer, a onetime deviation from safe practice may be sufficient to judge a student unsafe.

In accordance with the College's position on alcoholic beverages or drugs (illegal or prescribed) and/or other mind-altering substances, students practicing in a clinical setting or coming to class under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is prohibited and warrants corrective action. The College may require a student to submit to a blood, breath, and/or urine test for drugs or alcohol for reasonable cause. A student may request assistance with a drug or alcohol-related use/abuse problem without risk of penalty, provided the request is not the result of a violation. All such requests will maintain the student's confidentiality. See Alcohol & Drug Policy for procedure for reasonable cause testing.

Campus Housing Policy

The use and/or possession of alcohol/alcohol containers, as well as the manufacture, sale, distribution, use and/or possession of illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia and/or other mind-altering substances are prohibited on campus. The consequences for each resident involved in an alcohol-related violation are as follows:

- 1st Incident - All guests escorted out of Josie's Village and an alcohol awareness session with a College counselor.
- 2nd Incident - Guest privileges restricted for two weeks, 10 hours of community service at NMC and completion of alcohol education course (course fee of \$250 to be paid by student).
- 3rd Incident - Alcohol evaluation, resident is placed on housing probation and \$500 fine.
- 4th Incident - Eviction from Josie's Village without any refund of rent or deposits paid.

The consequences for each person involved in an illicit drug related violation at Josie's Village will include the following:

- Automatic eviction of the resident(s) from Josie's Village, without any refund of rent or deposits paid; and
- All names referred to College and local authorities where additional College, local, state, and federal sanctions may apply.
- Sanctions for either type of violation may also include the immediate dismissal of a student from the College.

Drug Screening Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide a safe working and learning environment for patients, students, clinical and institutional staff and property in the clinical programs of Nebraska Methodist College. Healthcare accreditation organizations mandate that hospitals and other health care agencies require students who participate in the care of patients be subject to the same standards as their employees. Accordingly, submitting a negative urine drug screen is a condition for participation in the clinical component of all programs.

For all programs, submitting a negative drug screen will be a requirement prior to the start of clinical courses. Repeat testing may also be required for cause or to retest a dilute sample. Failure of the drug test, tampering or attempting to tamper with a specimen, or refusal to cooperate with any aspect of this policy, or any health system policy on substance abuse, will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, refusal of enrollment or denial of clinical course progression. The student shall be responsible for paying any and all associated costs of urine drug screening including necessary retesting for any reason. Charges will be added to the students' account.

Test results will be confidential with disclosure of results provided only to approved persons involved in evaluating qualifications for clinical programs. Because of the mandate to comply with health system policies, disciplinary actions against students may be imposed without the customary mechanisms of academic warning and probation. Reports are the property of the NMC, will not be provided to students unless requested, and will be kept in confidential files separate from the student's academic file.

Counseling Treatment/Rehabilitation

After a student meets with a campus counselor, recommendations will be made on an individual basis. A violation will result in a meeting with the counselor and referrals to either campus counselors or community resources, with a release to the campus counselor.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, contact Universal Crisis and Drug Abuse Hotline: dial 988 or <https://988lifeline.org/>

Local Resources for students, staff, and faculty:

- Inroads to Recovery: 402-932-2248
- Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska: 402-817-4724
- The Clearview Center: 402-612-2516
- CHI Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment @ Immanuel: 402-572-2916
- Valley Hope of Omaha: 402-991-8824
- HERO Program via Stephen Center: 402-715-5440

Reporting to State and/or Federal Authorities

Students, faculty, and staff are advised that illegal possession, distribution, or consumption of illicit drugs or alcohol could result in criminal charges. The College will report breaches of prohibited behavior to the relevant authorities for legal action. Both federal regulations and state laws impose fines and imprisonment for offenses related to controlled substances, including opiates, narcotics, depressants, stimulants, or hallucinogenic drugs, such as possession, intent to sell, distribution, or manufacturing. Refer to below information on Nebraska and federal penalties and sanctions.

- State of Nebraska – Uniform Controlled Substances Act: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Documents/UniformControlledSubstancesAct.pdf>
- State of Nebraska – Revised Statute 28-416: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/laws.php> or <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=28-416>
- Federal Drug Penalty Information: <https://www.dea.gov/drug-information>

Health Risks Associated with Alcohol and Drugs

1. Alcohol consumption causes a number of changes in behavior and physiology. Even low doses significantly impair judgment, coordination, and abstract mental functioning. Statistics show that alcohol use is involved in a majority of violent behaviors on college campuses. Continued abuse may lead to dependency, which often causes permanent damage to vital organs and deterioration of a healthy lifestyle. Alcohol use can result in missing class, poor academic performance and disciplinary or legal issues. Other consequences associated with alcohol use include: injury to self or others, being involved in a fight, forgetting where you were or what you did, doing something you later regretted and having unprotected sex.
2. Amphetamines can cause a rapid or irregular heartbeat, headaches, depression, damage to the brain and lungs, tremors, loss of coordination, collapse, and death. Heavy users are prone to irrational acts.
3. Cocaine/Crack users often have a stuffy, runny nose and may have a perforated nasal septum. The immediate effects of cocaine use include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature, paranoia and depression. Cocaine is extremely addictive and can cause delirium, hallucinations, blurred vision, severe chest pain, muscle spasms, psychosis, convulsions, stroke and even death.
4. Hallucinogens such as Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) cause illusions and hallucinations. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, and loss of control. Delayed effects, or flashbacks, can occur even when use has ceased. Phencyclidine (PCP), another hallucinogen affects the section of the brain that controls the intellect and keeps instincts in check. Hallucinogens can cause liver damage, convulsion, coma, and even death.
5. Marijuana may impair or reduce short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, and reduce coordination and energy level. Users often have a lowered immune system and an increased risk of lung cancer. Users also experience interference with psychological maturation and temporary loss of fertility. The active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is stored in the fatty tissues of the brain and reproductive system for a minimum of 28 to 30 days.
6. Methamphetamines, known as speed, meth, ice, glass, etc. have a high potential for abuse and dependence. Taking even small amounts may produce irritability, insomnia, confusion, tremors, convulsions, anxiety, paranoia, and aggressiveness. Over time, methamphetamine users may experience symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease, a severe movement disorder.
7. Narcotics such as codeine, heroin or other opiate drugs cause the body to have diminished pain reactions. The use of heroin can result in coma or death due to a reduction in heart rate.
8. Steroid users experience a sudden increase in muscle and weight and an increase in aggression and combativeness. Steroids can cause high blood pressure, liver and kidney damage, heart disease, sterility and prostate cancer.