
OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUBJECT:	Medical Amnesty Policy
REVIEWED/REVISED:	9/2015; 7/2018; 12/2020; 3/2024
RELATED POLICY:	Alcohol & Drug Policy, College Code of Conduct, Drug Prevention Program
PURPOSE:	This policy seeks to diminish fear of disciplinary and conduct sanctions in such situations and to encourage individuals and organizations to seek needed medical attention for students in distress from alcohol and drug use.
POLICY OWNER:	Dean of Students

Nebraska Methodist College (NMC) encourages a living and learning environment that promotes the health and safety of all members of the NMC community. Alcohol, illicit drug and/or other mind-altering substance consumption--including excessive consumption, consumption of a dangerous substance, or consumption by someone with sensitivity--can cause serious physical and neurological harm or be life-threatening. As such, students are encouraged to make responsible decisions and to seek medical attention in serious or life-threatening situations that result from alcohol and/or other drug abuse; students are also encouraged to seek help for any situation where medical treatment is reasonably believed to be appropriate.

If a student is so intoxicated s/he is unable to be awakened, letting that person "sleep it off" is not a reasonable alternative to getting him/her the necessary medical help. Students may be hesitant to seek help in such emergencies because of fear of potential conduct and disciplinary consequences for themselves, the person in need of medical attention, or the organization hosting the event where the situation occurs.

If medical attention is required, students should immediately contact professional medical personnel (9-1-1) and/or Campus Security (if on campus) (402) 354-6911. A (i) student who seeks emergency assistance on behalf of themselves, another student, or a friend experiencing an alcohol and/or other drug related emergency, as well as (ii) the individual in distress may not be subject to disciplinary action nor mandatory alcohol and other drug sanctions under the NMC Student Code of Conduct or certain provisions under the Alcohol and Drug policy, as explained below.

Procedure

NMC students who needed medical attention as a result of alcohol, illicit drug and/or other mind-altering substance use and are considered for the Medical Amnesty Policy as determined by the Dean of Students are then required to meet with the Dean of Students who may then refer the student to the Campus Counseling. Campus Counseling,

after evaluating the situation, may also refer the student to a substance abuse specialist for assessment, additional counseling, and/or possible referral for treatment. Students who are referred but fail to meet and complete the recommendations in their entirety, or students determined by a professional to be in need of a medical or mental health leave (for their own or others' health and safety), may be subject to additional requirements after an opportunity to meet with a staff member from the Office of Student Engagement.

Students who are actively enrolled in a clinical course are required to be free of the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs and/or other mind-altering substances. If an enrolled student reports to class or a clinical site and is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs and/or other mind-altering substances, depending on the circumstance (alcohol versus drug related incident), they may be required to provide specimens for a drug or alcohol analysis in accordance with the Alcohol and Drug Policy.

If a registered student is transported to an emergency medical treatment center for intoxication or drug use, the student's parents or guardians may be notified by a telephone call from the Dean of Students if necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

If the student is involved in any subsequent (i.e., repeat) alcohol, illicit drugs and/or mind-altering substance incidents, the situation will be evaluated by the Dean of Students to determine if the student qualifies for medical amnesty. The availability of medical amnesty for students with repetitive violations will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Typically, situations will be handled through the Code of Conduct process and will be considered for sanctioning purposes if a student does not demonstrate a commitment to the steps recommended by the healthcare professional and is involved in repetitive alcohol and/or drug abuse incidents.

1. The Medical Amnesty Policy applies to NMC students who initiate and seek assistance and/or medical treatment on behalf of themselves, another student, or a friend when a serious or life-threatening situation is transpiring as result of alcohol and/or drug abuse. Reporting to a clinical or practicum site while under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs and/or other mind-altering substances where medical services may incidentally be offered during student's prescribed clinical hours, does not preclude the student from disciplinary action under the NMC Code of Conduct and/or Alcohol and Drug Policy.
2. If a representative of an NMC student organization hosting an event calls for medical assistance, this act of responsibility might mitigate potential Code of Conduct consequences that could arise against the organization, i.e., the fact that an organization sought help will be favorably considered in potential sanctioning for NMC policy violations. NMC student organizations involved in an incident must agree to take recommended steps to address concerns. In appropriate situations as determined in the conduct process, mitigation could result in the requirement of participation in an educational program or educational activities rather than other disciplinary consequences.
3. The protocol applies only to the Code of Conduct and Alcohol and Drug Policy, though no medical amnesty will be granted to students enrolled in a clinical course who report to any clinical or practicum site and are suspected to be under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs and/or other mind-altering substances. If there are any conflicts between the Alcohol and Drug Policy and the Medical Amnesty Policy, the Alcohol and Drug Policy will prevail.
4. Enforcement agencies may act within their jurisdictions in enforcing the laws enacted by the State of Nebraska, the United States, or any other state or nation where jurisdiction may be invoked.

5. The Medical Amnesty Policy applies only to individuals' use of alcohol and drugs where medical attention is sought out and needed. It does not apply to other prohibited behaviors including, but not limited to, the illegal distribution of illicit substances, harassment, sexual violence, hazing, causing or threatening physical harm, damage to property, or assault.

Questions

Questions regarding the Medical Amnesty Policy in general, should be directed to the Dean of Students at (402) 354-7528.