Alcohol and Other Drug Policy and Procedures

WITC is committed to maintaining a drug-free learning environment. The WITC Board of Trustees, administration, and staff recognize that the abuse of alcohol and other drugs interferes with a person’s ability to learn and retain new information and increases the risk of accidents and serious health problems. All drugs chemically influence a person’s motor skills, body function, and brain processes, interfering with judgment, perception, reaction time, and other skills necessary to produce a safe and effective learning climate.

Alcohol and Other Drug Policy

The possession, use, sale, transfer, or purchase of alcohol or controlled substances on college property is strictly prohibited. This applies to all college sites and facilities including leased property and clinical sites.

All students and employees are prohibited from being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances while on college property or while conducting college business or receiving instruction. Violations of this policy will be reported to law enforcement agencies as well as being the basis for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal or termination from the college.

This policy shall not apply to substances prescribed by a physician, ingredients in food preparation, or utilized as part of the Field Sobriety Testing Program.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during the scheduled time of an educational field trip.

The advertising of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on WITC property and in college publications.

All college student social events must be sponsored by a student organization or a recognized class of WITC. Such events must be approved by the Student Services office and follow the college’s alcohol and other drug policies.

Alcohol and Other Drug Procedures

Students may be suspended, dismissed, and/or subject to code of conduct sanctions for violation of WITC’s Alcohol and Other Drug Policy.

Students, who demonstrate abuse of alcohol and/or other drugs while on WITC property, may be required to leave for the remainder of the day. The dean of students will report this temporary suspension to the campus administrator. Student Code of Conduct procedure is followed.

Whether a student personally abuses chemicals or is affected by someone who does, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse education, referral, and recovery support assistance is available at WITC. You can learn about chemical dependency using materials in the learning resource center (LRC), or by contacting a college health nurse or campus counselor. All contact with college staff is free and confidential.

Alcohol/Drug-free College

It is the intent of the college to provide students, staff, and visitors with an educational environment which is alcohol and drug-free. The college health nurse at each campus serves as the ATODA (Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drug Abuse) prevention facilitator, providing awareness, education, support, resources, and referral for staff and students. The WITC Board has approved the following policy:

- The use, possession, manufacture, sale, or delivery of illegal drugs (or its facsimile) is prohibited from all WITC campuses, other WITC instructional sites, and at all WITC-sponsored activities
- The possession and/or use of any beverage containing alcohol, including beer or other malt beverages, wine, wine coolers, or distilled beverages (or its facsimile) on college property is prohibited (except as an ingredient in college-approved food preparation programs)
- The possession and/or use of alcohol as part of any off-campus, college-sponsored activity without prior approval by the president (or his designee) is prohibited. All college-sponsored student activities (using tax dollars and/or activity fees) must be open to all students regardless of age. If alcoholic beverages are present at off-campus, WITC-sponsored activities, provisions must be made to accommodate any student under 21 years of age
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during the program/activity portion of any educational field trip or while in transit to or from the campus
The use of alcoholic beverages in any WITC conference center is not to be encouraged and will be authorized only in rare and unusual circumstances with the prior approval of both the campus administrator and the president.

The expenditure of student activity fees for alcoholic beverages is not allowed.

The advertising of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on WITC property and in college publications.

Students found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

Tobacco-Free College
WITC Board policy bans tobacco use in any form, in all WITC facilities. This policy maintains a healthy environment for students, staff, and visitors and complies with the state Clean Indoor Air Act, Section 101.123. Students using tobacco products within the WITC facilities are subject to disciplinary actions.

Controlled Substance/State of Wisconsin and Federal Legal Sanctions
The laws of Wisconsin prohibit drug possession and delivery through the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, Wis. Stats. 961, and mandate stiff penalties that include up to 30 years of prison and fines up to $1,000,000. A person with a first-time conviction of possession of a controlled substance can be sentenced up to 1 year in prison and fined up to $5,000.

The penalties vary according to the amount of drug confiscated, the type of drug found, the number of previous offenses by the individual, and whether the individual intended to manufacture the drug, sell the drug, or use the drug. In addition to the stringent penalties for possession or delivery, the sentences can be doubled when exacerbating factors are present, such as when a person distributes a controlled substance to a minor.

Substantial restrictions against alcohol abuse also exist in Wisconsin. It is against the law to sell alcohol to anyone who has not reached the legal drinking age of 21, and there is a concurrent duty on the part of an adult to prevent the illegal consumption of alcohol on his (or her) premises, Wis. Stats. 125.07(1) (a) (1). Violation of this statute can result in a $500 fine. It is against the law for an underage person to attempt to buy an alcoholic beverage, falsely represent his or her age, or enter licensed premises. Offenders can be fined $500, ordered to participate in a supervised work program, and have their driver’s license suspended, Wis. Stats. 125.07(4) (3). Harsher penalties exist for the retailers of alcoholic beverages including up to 90 days in jail and revocation of their retail liquor permit.

The federal government has revised the penalties against drug possession and trafficking through its Federal Sentencing Guidelines that reduce the discretion that federal judges may use in sentencing offenders of federal drug statutes. Under these guidelines, courts can sentence a person for up to 6 years for unlawful possession of a controlled substance, including the distribution of a small amount (less than 250 grams) of marijuana. A sentence of life imprisonment can result from a conviction of possession of a controlled substance that results in death or bodily injury. Possession of more than 5 grams of cocaine can trigger an intent-to-distribute penalty of 10-16 years in prison. U.S.S.G.s 2D2.1 (b) (1)

Federal Illegal Possession Penalties for Controlled Substances
First conviction - Up to 1 year imprisonment and fined at least $1,000 but not more than $100,000, or both. After 1 prior drug conviction: At least 15 days in prison, not to exceed 2 years and fined at least $2,500 but not more than $250,000, or both. After 2 or more prior drug convictions: At least 90 days in prison, not to exceed 3 years and fined at least $5,000 but not more than $250,000, or both. There are special provisions for possession of crack cocaine. Mandatory at least 5 years in prison, not to exceed 20 years and fined up to $250,000, or both if:

- First conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 5 grams
- Second crack conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 3 grams
- Third or subsequent crack conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 1 gram

In addition, there is forfeiture of personal and real property used to possess, facilitate, transport, or conceal possession of controlled substances. There are also civil fines of up to $10,000 and denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses, up to 1 year for first offense, up to 5 years for second and subsequent offenses. 21 U.S.C. 844(a); 21 U.S.C. 853(a) (2); 881(a) (7); 21 U.S.C. 881(a) (4); 21 U.S.C. 844(a); 21 U.S.C. 853(a)

Summary of the Health Effects of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
The following is a partial list of drugs and some of the consequences of their use. The abuse of alcohol and use of other illegal drugs is harmful to the health of the user. Further, the use of drugs and alcohol is not conducive to an academic atmosphere. Drugs impede the learning process and can cause disruption for other students and disturb their academic interests. The use of alcohol or drugs in the workplace may also impede the employee’s ability to perform in a safe and effective manner and may result in injuries to others. Early diagnosis and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse is in the best interests of students, employee, and the college. The effect of any drug depends on the amount taken at one time, the past experience of the drug user, the circumstances in which the drug is taken (place, feelings, activities of the user, presence of other people, simultaneous use of other drugs), and the manner in which the drug is taken. This list includes only some of the known health risks, and not all legal or illegal drugs are covered in this brief section:

Alcohol - Alcohol is chemically classified as a mind-altering drug because it contains ethanol and has the chemical power to depress the action of the central nervous system. Alcohol is the most frequently abused drug on campus and in society. This depression affects motor coordination, speech, and vision. In great amounts, it can affect respiration and heart rate control. Death can result when the level of blood alcohol exceeds 0.40 percent. Prolonged abuse of alcohol can lead to alcoholism, malnutrition, and cirrhosis.

Cannabis (marijuana, hashish) - Marijuana and hashish are psychologically addictive and increase the risk of lung cancer, bronchitis, and emphysema; contributes to heart disease, fatigue, paranoia, and possible psychosis; withdrawal symptoms including insomnia, hyperactivity, and decreased appetite; depression of the immune system; decreased sperm count in men; and irregular ovulation in women.

Stimulants (cocaine, crack, amphetamines) - Cocaine and crack stimulate the central nervous system and are extremely addictive. They can cause psychological and physical dependency which can lead to dilated pupils, increased pulse rate, elevated blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite, paranoia, and seizures. They can also cause death by disrupting the brain’s control of the heart and respiration.

Depressants and barbiturates - Depressants and barbiturates can cause physical and psychological dependence that can lead to respiratory depression, coma, and death, especially when used in concert with alcohol. Withdrawal can lead to restlessness, insomnia, convulsions, and even death.

Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, mescaline) - Hallucinogens interrupt the brain messages that control the intellect and keep instincts in check. Large doses can produce convulsions, coma, and heart and lung failure. Chronic users complain of persistent memory problems and speech difficulties for up to a year after their use. Persistent memory problems and speech difficulties may linger.

Narcotics (heroin, codeine, morphine) - Users of narcotics develop dependence and increase the likelihood of an overdose that can lead to convulsions, coma, and death.

Nicotine - Nicotine is highly addictive, whether ingested by smoking or chewing. This drug reaches the brain in 6 seconds, damages the lungs, decreases heart strength, and is associated with many cancers. The withdrawal symptoms include anxiety, progressive restlessness, irritability, and sleep disturbance.