

DRUG FREE SCHOOLS POLICY STATEMENT

A. Purpose

Carl Albert State College has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. In meeting with this commitment, the college provides educational opportunities and assistance through support services. The following policy is established to meet this intent and to ensure compliance with both the "Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988" and the "Drug Free Schools and Communities Act amendments of 1989" (P.L. 101-226).

B. Policy

As set forth in local, state, and federal laws, and rules and regulations of the college, Carl Albert State College prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs¹ and alcohol by students and employees in buildings, facilities, grounds, or other property owned and/or controlled by the college or as part of college activities. All students and employees must abide by this policy as a condition of enrollment or employment. Continuance of enrollment or employment following receipt of this policy constitutes acceptance of this policy by the employee or student.

C. Internal Sanctions

CASC will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees who unlawfully manufacture, distribute, possess or use illegal drugs or alcohol in the workplace, on CASC property, or as a part of an event sanctioned or sponsored by CASC. Any violation of this policy can result in immediate suspension or dismissal from employment, satisfactory completion of an approved drug or alcohol rehabilitation program, and/or disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion from CASC. A criminal conviction is not required for sanctions to be imposed upon an employee or student for violation of this policy.

Continuance of enrollment or employment following receipt of this policy constitutes acceptance of this policy by the employee or student. Disciplinary standards and sanctions for students follow. Disciplinary procedures for employees are found in the *CASC Policies and Procedures Manual*.

D. External Sanctions

Local, state and federal laws provide for a variety of legal sanctions for the unlawful possession and distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. The sanctions include, but are not limited to, incarceration and monetary fines.

Federal law provides rather severe penalties for distribution or dispensing, or possessing with the intent to distribute or dispense a controlled substance², and penalties of a less severe nature for simple possession of a controlled substance.

The type and quantity of the drug, whether the person has any prior convictions, and whether death or previous injury resulted from the use of the drug in question (this, however, is not a factor in a case of simple possession) all affect the sentence.

For example, if less than 50 kilograms of marijuana are involved and it is a person's first offense (no prior convictions), then s/he is subject to imprisonment of not more than five years, a fine of \$250,000, or both. If, however, 50-100 kilograms of marijuana are involved instead of 50, and all other factors are the same as in the preceding example, s/he is subject to imprisonment of not more than 20 years, unless death or serious injury results from the marijuana use, then s/he is subject to not less than 20 years to life, a fine of \$100,000, or both.

While the penalties for simple possession are less severe, the first conviction still carries a sentence of up to a year imprisonment, a fine of at least \$1,000 but not more than \$100,000, or both. With regard to simple possession, the number of convictions makes both the minimum period of imprisonment and fines greater. Under special provisions for possession of crack, a person may be sentenced to a mandatory term of at least 5 years in prison and not more than 20 years, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

State law provides similar penalties with regard to the simple possession, distribution, or

possession with the intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance³. Simple possession of marijuana is a misdemeanor and carries a punishment of up to 1 year in the county jail. A second or subsequent conviction for simple possession of marijuana carries 2-10 years in the state penitentiary and a fine of up to \$20,000 for the first conviction. A second or sub-sequent conviction carries a punishment of 4 years to life in a state penitentiary and a fine of up to \$40,000. Depending upon the quantity involved, a convicted individual could be sentenced under the Oklahoma "Trafficking in Illegal Drugs Act" which provides for much harsher penalties. In addition, state law provides that possession of or possession with intent to consume 3.2 beer by someone under age 21 years old in a public place is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100 or by the appropriate community service not to exceed 20 hours. (O.S. 2.1.1215)

Possession of other alcoholic or intoxicating beverages by someone under age 21 years old in a public place is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 30 days, a fine not to exceed \$100, or both⁴. In addition, no persons shall knowingly sell, deliver, or furnish alcoholic beverages to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age or sell, deliver, or knowingly furnish alcoholic beverages to an intoxicated person who has been adjudged insane or mentally deficient. (O.S.37.537, A 1,2)

There are also state laws concerning driving under the influence of alcohol and using a false driver's license to obtain 3.2 beer or other alcoholic beverage. Depending on the number of previous convictions, or gravity of the circumstance, a person may be convicted of a felony or misdemeanor for such an offense. It is most likely that a person will forfeit driving privileges in the event s/he is convicted of such offense.

There are also local city laws similar to those described above. If drugs are involved, the city will, most likely, defer to the state or federal authorities because their penalties are more severe. If alcohol is involved, you may be convicted of violating both local and state law and punished according to both laws.

Students and employees are encouraged to review this information. The above referenced examples of penalties and sanctions are based on the relevant laws at the time of adoption of this policy statement. Such laws are, of course, subject to revision or amendment by way of the legislative process. According to the Drug and Alcohol Sanctions in the Student Handbook, students abusing drugs or alcohol will be referred to the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary action. Employees abusing drugs or alcohol will be referred to their immediate supervisor. In addition, an employee has the responsibility to refrain from performing sensitive safety functions while a prohibited drug is in their system. An employee is required to also notify his or her supervisor of criminal convictions for drug related offenses occurring in the work place, no later than five (5) days following the conviction.

E. Health Risks

Alcohol and other drug use represent serious threats to health and the quality of life. The general categories of drugs and their effects are as follows:

- **Alcohol** - short term effects include behavioral changes, impairment of judgment and coordination, greater likelihood of aggressive acts, respiratory depression, irreversible physical and mental abnormalities in newborns (fetal alcohol syndrome) and death. Long-term effects of alcohol abuse include damage to the liver, heart and brain, ulcers, gastritis, malnutrition, delirium tremens and cancer. Alcohol combined with other barbiturates/depressants can prove to be a deadly mixture.
- **Amphetamines/Stimulants** - (speed, uppers, crank, caffeine, etc.) speed up the nervous system which can cause increased heart and breathing rates, higher blood pressure, decreased appetite, headaches, blurred vision, dizziness, sleepiness, anxiety, hallucinations, paranoia, depression, convulsions and death due to a stroke or heart failure.
- **Anabolic Steroids** - seriously affect the liver, cardiovascular and reproductive systems. They can cause sterility in males and females, as well as impotency in males.
- **Barbiturates/ Depressants** - (downers, Quaaludes, valium, etc.) slows down the central nervous system which can cause decreased heart and breathing rates, lower blood pressure, slowed

reactions, confusion, distortion of reality, convulsion, respiratory depression, coma and death. Depressants combined with alcohol can be lethal.

- **Cocaine/Crack** - stimulates the central nervous system and is extremely addictive, both psychologically and physically. Effects include dilated pupils, increased heart rate, elevated blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite, hallucinations, paranoia, seizures, and death due to cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.
- **Hallucinogens** - (PCP, angel dust, LSD, etc.) interrupt the functions of the part of the brain which controls the intellect and instincts. May result in the self-inflicted injuries, impaired coordination, dulled senses, incoherent speech, depression, anxiety, violent behavior, paranoia, hallucinations, increased heart rate and blood pressure, convulsions, coma, and heart and lung failure.
- **Cannabis** - (marijuana, hashish, hash, etc.) impairs short-term memory, comprehension, concentration, coordination, and motivation. May also cause paranoia and psychosis. Marijuana smoke contains more cancer-causing agents than tobacco smoke. The way in which marijuana is smoked - deeply inhaled and held in the lungs for a long period -enhances the risk of getting cancer. Combined with alcohol, marijuana can produce a dangerous multiplied effect.
- **Narcotics** - (smack, horse, Demerol, percodan, etc.) initially produce feelings of euphoria often followed by drowsiness, nausea, and vomiting. An overdose may result in convulsion, coma, and death. Tolerance develops rapidly and dependence is likely. Using contaminated syringes to inject such drugs may result in AIDS.
- **Tobacco/Nicotine** - some 170,000 people in the United States die each year from smoking related coronary heart disease. Some 30% of the 130,000 cancer deaths each year are linked to smoking. Lung, larynx, esophagus, bladder, pancreas and kidney cancers strike smokers at increased rates. Emphysema and chronic bronchitis are ten times more likely among smokers.

Further information concerning health risks may be found in the Office for Student Affairs.

Counseling, referral services, and health information are available to students and employees. A person should also consult his/her personal physician about the health risks associated with alcohol and drug use.

F. Drug/Alcohol Counseling and Rehabilitation Programs

Drug and alcohol abuse constitute a major problem in today's society. Carl Albert State College will make special efforts to both educate and assist students, faculty, and staff of this college concerning the abuse. The following group of activities and services are not intended to be all inclusive, but supportive of the education effort:

- During Freshman Orientation, new students to the college environment are made aware of the locations of drug/alcohol related materials.
- National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week activities are sponsored each fall.
- Residence staff development training includes sessions on alcohol and drug abuse. Residence advisors can also provide advice and referral for counseling.
- Posters, fliers, and news articles through the CASC newspaper disseminate drug/alcohol information.
- Academic courses, e.g., Drug Education and Personal Health and Wellness, incorporate drug/alcohol training in their curriculum. Other academic areas are encouraged to support these efforts via class assignments.
- Audio-visual materials, speakers, and seminars are available to all members of the college community by booking through the Office for Student Affairs.
- Governmental drug and/or law enforcement agencies are invited to present programs. Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students (BACCHUS) is an educational program conducted by, and directed toward, Carl Albert State College students. Should the above efforts not meet individual needs, there are other programs in the community or nearby that may better suit these needs. A list of such programs, their location and phone number, is maintained in the Office for Student Affairs. Seeking help from, being referred to or from these services is confidential, and will not alone result in disciplinary action.

Individual privacy will, of course, be maintained in any counseling/rehabilitation process.

¹ “Illicit drug use” is defined as the use of drugs and the abuse of other drugs and alcohol, including anabolic steroids.

² Cocaine, marijuana, opiates, amphetamines, and other drug or substance as set forth in Section 202 of the Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S.C., Sec 812)

³ Cocaine, marijuana, opiates, amphetamines, and any other drug or substance as set forth in Schedules I through IV of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, 63 O.S. 1981, Sec. 2-101, et seq., as amended.

⁴ Note: Under college regulations no 3.2 beer or other alcoholic beverages are allowed in college housing, no matter what your age.

Hospital Treatment Programs

- *The Oaks Behavioral Health Center*, 108 S. Witte, Poteau, OK 74937 (918) 647-3546.
- *Choctaw Nation Recovery Center*, PO Box 814, Talihina, OK 74571, (918) 567-2389
- *Harbor House*, 615 N. 19th St., Forth Smith, AR 72901, (479) 785-4083

Hotlines

- *National Institution on Drug Abuse Information and Referral Line*, 1-800-662-HELP, M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- *Alcohol Hotline*, 1-800--ALCOHOL
- *National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence Hope Line*, 1-800-622-2255, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.
- *Reach-Out Hotline*, 1-800-522-9054 (alcohol, drug crisis intervention, mental health, and referral)