

GRACE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY
STUDENT SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE POLICY

Policy: The use (or consumption), sale, purchase, transfer, or possession of a controlled substance on property owned or leased by Grace College or while participating in activities sponsored by the College, and the use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol, and the abuse of prescription medicine also pose unacceptable risks for safe, healthy and efficient operations. Violation of the College's policy will be subject to the student conduct process up to and including dismissal. Students of legal drinking age are permitted to consume alcohol in moderation during semester breaks (Christmas break and summer break).

In addition, the College recognizes that tobacco is a harmful substance, even if lawful, and has a policy of prohibiting the use of tobacco. This includes (but is not limited to) cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah, chewing or dipping, electronic devices (e-cigarettes or cigars) and other means of inhalation. Although Grace College strongly cautions students regarding the use of addictive substances which pose significant long-term health concerns, students of legal age are permitted to use tobacco during semester breaks (Christmas break and summer break). Tobacco cessation assistance is available through the Grace College Health and Counseling Center.

Vaporizer use, regardless of substance being inhaled, is prohibited for Grace College students.

Grace further expresses its intent to comply with federal and state rules, regulations or laws that relate to the maintenance of a school free from controlled substances and unlawful and irresponsible use of alcohol.

Purpose: Grace has the right and obligation to maintain a safe, healthy, and efficient environment for all of its students, and to protect the College's property, information, equipment, operations and reputation.

Scope: Grace College has a vital interest in maintaining a safe, healthy, and efficient environment. Being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcohol while a student poses serious safety and health risks to the user and to all those who associate with the user. This policy, therefore, applies to all students in all programs and all off campus locations.

Standards of Conduct:

1. Members of the community are to refrain from the use of tobacco in any form, alcoholic beverages, and controlled substances.
2. Controlled substances are defined as:
 - a. Any drug or other substance that is not legally obtainable
 - b. Any drug that is legally obtainable but has not been legally obtained
 - c. Any prescribed drug not legally obtained
 - d. Any prescribed drug not being used for the prescribed purpose

- e. Any over-the-counter drug being used at a dosage level other than recommended by the manufacture or being used for a purpose other than intended by the manufacturer
 - f. Any drug being used for a purpose not in accordance with bona fide medical therapy.
 - g. Unregulated high-tech smoking devices, commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes, or “e-cigarettes,” or “vaporizers”.
3. Examples of controlled substances are cannabis substances, such as marijuana and hashish, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, phencyclidine (PCP), and so-called designer drugs and look-alike drugs.
 4. CBD (Cannabidiol) oil is permitted as a medical treatment as long as it is legally obtained and meets legal (State of Indiana) guidelines. These guidelines include specific product labeling and THC levels below three-tenths percent (%.3). Students may not sell or distribute CBD oil.
 5. Grace College students may not be bartenders (students may serve alcohol in restaurants, but not bartend), be involved in the purchase of alcohol for a minor, or provide an off-campus location for a party where alcohol or controlled substances are available.
 6. If a student is suspected to be using any of the aforementioned drugs or controlled substances, Grace College may require students to undergo drug testing through a local medical clinic. If asked, students must submit to the drug test immediately. If the drug test comes results positive, the student will be responsible to pay for the test as part of their sanctions. If the test is negative, Grace College will pay for the test.
 7. During the school year, attendance at bars, nightclubs, and dance clubs whose primary activities include practices that are prohibited by the College lifestyle policy is prohibited. For help in determining whether a particular activity or club is within the college guidelines (such as concerts, receptions, special events, etc.), students may consult with a Resident Director, Director of Residence Life, or the AVP/Dean of Students.

Medical Amnesty:

Students physically present on Grace College property who seek professional medical assistance for themselves or others related to the consumption of alcohol will not be subject to disciplinary sanctions by Grace College. Students in an alcohol-related emergency who require medical attention will not be subject to disciplinary sanctions if the student successfully completes an education program that is approved by the Director of the Health and Counseling Center in consultation with the Dean of Students and the Director of Residence Life. Recurring offenses are subject to the discretion of the Student Affairs Office. Students seeking medical amnesty will remain accountable to the Student Affairs code of conduct for secondary behavior that might occur while intoxicated, including, but not limited to, property damage, assault against another person, or sexual misconduct. The purpose of this policy is not to exonerate students from disciplinary action; rather it is to prioritize student safety and promote educationally- based, restorative responses related to these emergency situations.

For the full policy on Medical Amnesty or Indiana's Lifeline Law, please stop by the Student Affairs office.

Student Conduct Sanctions:

Sanctions action against students related to the violation of the expressed standards of conduct will be in accordance with those outlined in the Student Conduct Guidelines. In each situation there are several variables which may contribute to the resulting decisions. Grace College reserves the right to exercise greater or less severity in decisions. Examples of variables that would likely result in greater severity (and likely suspension or dismissal) include: providing for minors, lying, operating a vehicle while under the influence, distribution or selling controlled substances, drinking or drunkenness on campus, and hosting an off campus party. The values of community, integrity, truth, and response to correction are held in higher regard than "fairness" to other situations. The following sanctions are intended to be general guidelines toward forming a response.

Alcohol

Students who violate the campus alcohol policy will generally be assessed a student conduct contract with the following sanctions:

1. First Offense consumption, possession, or purchase
 - a. The student will undergo an alcohol assessment administered by the Grace College Counseling Center or another approved provider. All recommendations from the assessment must be completed.
 - b. The student will complete an alcohol use education such as an online class or group therapy (student is responsible to cover any cost associated with education).
 - c. The student may be required to meet with a mentor approved by Student Affairs a minimum of 8 times.
 - d. If the student is underage the student's parent or guardian will be informed.
 - e. If the student is in a leadership position or an athlete, they will incur additional sanctions.
 - f. All sanctions must be completed within one semester (16 weeks) of being issued a student conduct contract. Failure to comply with the contract will result in further sanctions up to and including a student conduct panel.

2. Second Offense consumption, possession, or purchase
 - a. The student will serve a 3-5 day short-term suspension away from campus.
 - b. The student will undergo a second alcohol assessment administered by the Grace College Counseling Center or an approved provider. All recommendations from the assessment must be completed.
 - c. The student may be required to meet with a mentor approved by Student Affairs a minimum of 8 times, complete an educational project, or attend counseling for one full semester.
 - d. The student's parent or guardian will be informed.

- e. If the student is in a leadership position or an athlete, they will incur additional sanctions up to and including disciplinary probation.
 - f. All sanctions must be completed within one semester (16 weeks) of being issued a student conduct contract. Failure to comply with the contract will result in a student conduct panel.
3. Third Offense consumption, possession, or purchase
- a. The student will appear before a student conduct panel. The panel will determine sanctions up to and including dismissal. The student will likely be suspended from campus until the panel can be convened.
 - b. The student's parent or guardian will be informed.
 - c. If the student is in a leadership position that student's employment will be terminated.
 - d. If the student is an athlete, they will be removed from their athletic team.

Illegal Drugs

Students who violate the campus substance use policy will generally be assessed a student conduct contract with the following sanctions:

- 1. First Offense use, possession, or purchase
 - a. The student will serve a 3-5 day short-term suspension away from campus.
 - b. The student will undergo a substance use assessment administered by the Grace College Counseling Center or an approved provider. All recommendations from the assessment must be completed.
 - c. The student may be required to undergo drug testing.
 - d. The student will complete a substance use education such as an online class or group therapy (student is responsible to cover any cost associated with education).
 - e. The student may be required to meet with a mentor approved by Student Affairs a minimum of 8 times or attend counseling for one full semester.
 - f. The student's parent or guardian will be informed.
 - g. If the student is in a leadership position or an athlete, they will incur additional sanctions up to and including disciplinary probation.
 - h. All sanctions must be completed within one semester (16 weeks) of being issued a student conduct contract. Failure to comply with the contract will result in further sanctions up to and including a student conduct panel.
 - i. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, appropriate law enforcement may be notified.
- 2. Second Offense use, possession, or purchase
 - a. The student will appear before a student conduct panel. The panel will determine sanctions up to and including dismissal. The student will likely be suspended from campus until the panel can be convened.
 - b. The student's parent or guardian will be informed.
 - c. If the student is in a leadership position that student's employment will be terminated.
 - d. If the student is an athlete, they will be removed from their athletic team.

- e. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, appropriate law enforcement may be notified.

Legal Sanctions

In addition to the student conduct process from the College, local, state, and federal laws strictly outline penalties, including fines and jail terms, for the illegal use, possession or distribution of alcohol and drugs. A violation of any law is a violation of the student conduct policy and will be treated as a student conduct manner. Further Grace College will coordinate with local and federal law enforcement with any violation. Indiana and federal law provides for fines and/or imprisonment for the unlawful possession, sale, manufacture, or distribution of drugs or alcohol. The amount of the fines and the length of imprisonment vary according to the type and amount of the substance involved, prior violations for such offenses, and a variety of other factors. Legal sanctions for the unlawful distribution of drugs increase if the substance is distributed to a person under twenty-one years of age or within one thousand feet of the property of a college. A summarized list of Indiana State Sanctions is available from Student Affairs.

Health and Other Risks

The abuse of alcohol and use of illicit drugs are known to be detrimental to physical and psychological well-being. Almost every system in the body can be negatively affected by excessive or chronic alcohol consumption or drug use. Their use is associated with a wide variety of health risks such as severe weight loss, anemia, physical and mental dependence, impaired learning, depression, high-risk sexual behavior, changes in the reproductive system, damage to the lungs, cardiovascular disease, cancer, liver disease, seizures, brain damage, acute and chronic illness, and even death. Because many who abuse alcohol and drugs also smoke, the health risks are further compounded.

In addition, the abuse of alcohol and drug use are associated with risks to the community and may include such things as impaired and unsafe work performance, violence, injuries, accidents, drunk driving, acquaintance rape.

Clinical Exams and Testing

College officials reserve the right to require that a student submit to a physical exam or clinical testing designed to detect the presence of drugs when there are reasonable grounds (meaning objective facts sufficient to lead a reasonable person to conclude that a particular student is unable to satisfactorily perform his or her duties or function in a college environment due to drug or alcohol impairment. Such inability to perform may include, but is not limited to, decreases in the quality or quantity of the student's productivity, judgment, reasoning, concentration and psychomotor control, and marked changes in behavior. Accidents, deviations from safe working practices, and erratic conduct indicative of impairment are examples of "reasonable belief" situations) for believing that a student is under the influence of, or improperly using controlled substances, prescription or over the counter drugs or alcohol in violation of this policy.

If action was based upon a drug or alcohol test, the student will have the right, at his or her expense, to have a separate test performed on the same sample by a testing agency acceptable to the College.

Counseling, Treatment, and Rehabilitation

Alcohol and drug information, referral, counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation programs are available to students through a variety of on- and off-campus resources. Counseling services are available on campus through the Counseling Center. For more serious problems, the Counseling Center may refer students to counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation programs off campus, and maintains a list of these resources available locally to students or others wanting information or counseling for alcohol or drug use. Some of these services and programs are without charge, while others are covered by the student's insurance or based on the student's ability to pay. The Counseling Center will assist students who do not live locally to identify counseling or treatment services in their immediate vicinity.

Students with questions, concerns, or problems related to the use of illicit drugs or the abuse of alcohol are urged to take immediate advantage of the help that is available.

Revised 6/10/21