



Substance Use and Abuse Policy

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 is vitally interested in maintaining a safe, healthy, and efficient environment and 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/events (including non-Grace-sponsored events).

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 university is prohibited. 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 this policy will be subject to the student conduct process and sanctions. Students of legal drinking age are permitted to consume alcohol in moderation during semester breaks (Christmas break and summer break) unless on campus or participating in campus programming.

In addition, the institution recognizes that tobacco and nicotine are harmful substances, even if lawful, and has a policy of prohibiting the use of tobacco/nicotine. This includes (but is not limited to) cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah, chewing or dipping, pouches, electronic devices (e-cigarettes or cigars) and other means of inhalation. Although Grace 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/nicotine cessation assistance is available through the Grace Health and Counseling Services.

Vaporizer/Vape use, regardless of the substance being inhaled, is prohibited for Grace 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.

Standards of Conduct:

1. Members of the community are to refrain from using tobacco, 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 manufacturer 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/vapes."
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. Grace College students may not be bartenders (they may serve alcohol in restaurants but not bartend), purchase alcohol for a minor, or provide an off-campus location for a party where alcohol or controlled substances are available.
5. If a student is suspected of using any of the drugs mentioned above or controlled substances, Grace College may require them to undergo drug testing through a local medical clinic. If asked, students must submit to the test immediately. If the drug test results are positive, the student will be responsible for paying for the test as part of their sanctions. If the test is negative, Grace College will pay for the test.
6. 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, associate dean of students, or the VP/dean of students.
7. A student may be held responsible for a policy violation when they host or permit guests to bring, possess, or consume a controlled substance or alcohol in their assigned residence or space. A student's lack of personal possession or consumption does not, by itself, excuse responsibility when the student knowingly allowed or facilitated the presence or use of a controlled substance or alcohol.

Amnesty

Grace College prioritizes student health and safety over disciplinary outcomes in the situations below. Amnesty under these policies does not exonerate a student from the underlying conduct process for other, unrelated violations, and does not extend to secondary behavior such as property damage, assault, or sexual misconduct that occurs alongside the protected incident.

Medical Amnesty — Alcohol and Controlled Substances

Students who seek professional medical assistance for themselves or another person related to the consumption of alcohol or use of a controlled substance will not be subject to disciplinary sanctions by Grace College for that consumption or use. This includes students requiring medical attention themselves, consistent with Indiana's Lifeline Law (Ind. Code § 7.1-5-1-6.5), which protects both the person seeking help and the person receiving it when the caller remains on scene and cooperates with responders. Students granted medical amnesty will complete an education program approved by the Director of Health and Counseling Services, in consultation with the Dean of Students and the Associate Dean of Students. Recurring incidents are subject to the discretion of the Student Affairs Office. The purpose of this policy is not to exonerate students from disciplinary action, but to prioritize student safety and support educationally based, restorative responses to these emergencies.

Title IX Amnesty

A student who reports conduct prohibited under Grace's Title IX and Sex Discrimination Policy will not be disciplined under other Grace policies — including for alcohol or drug use, or a

prohibited consensual relationship — for related conduct arising out of the same facts and circumstances as the report. Grace may still pursue non-disciplinary responses, such as counseling or educational efforts.

Student Conduct Sanctions:

Sanctions action against students related to violating the expressed standards of conduct will be in accordance with those outlined in the [Student Conduct Guidelines](#). In each situation, several variables 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/purchasing for minors, lying, operating a vehicle while under the influence, distributing 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 for 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 Grace College Counseling Services 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 (15 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 be placed on Disciplinary Probation for one semester or given a one-week suspension.
 - b. The student will undergo a second alcohol assessment administered by Grace College Counseling Services 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 (15 weeks) of being issued a student conduct contract.
 - g. 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, which will determine sanctions up to and including dismissal. The student will likely be suspended from campus until the panel can convene.
 - 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 be placed on Disciplinary Probation for one semester or given a one-week suspension.
 - b. The student will undergo a substance use assessment administered by Grace College Counseling Services 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 (the student is responsible for covering 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 (15 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 violates the student conduct policy and will be treated as a student conduct matter. Further, Grace College will coordinate with local and federal law enforcement for any violation. Indiana and federal law provide 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 the 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, and 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 the 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 Counseling Services. For more serious problems, Counseling Services may refer students to counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation programs off campus and maintain 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 free of charge, while others are covered by the student's insurance or based on the student's ability to pay. Counseling Services will assist students who do not live locally in identifying 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.

Current as of September 2026