

Alcohol and Drug Policies

The College has established these policies in an effort to ensure the most positive learning environment for all students. General personnel policies for College employees prohibit the possession or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco or illegal drugs on College premises. The College Undergraduate Student Handbook prohibits the possession or consumption of alcohol, the possession, sale, use, or distribution of any narcotic, drug, marijuana, or other addictive hallucinogenic substances (except as prescribed by a physician), or the use or possession of any tobacco product. A violation of these policies is considered a major infraction. Possible sanctions for major infractions include suspension, leave of absence, or expulsion. Violations of state laws relating to underage drinking and federal and state drug laws may also be reported to local law enforcement.

Faculty, staff, visitors, students and their guests are prohibited from engaging in the following:

- Use, sale or possession of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or other substances that significantly alter one's physical and/or mental state as well as any violation of State or Federal Law.
- Use, sale or possession of a controlled substance without a valid prescription; use of a controlled substance in a manner other than prescribed; abuse of prescription or over-the-counter products as well as any violation of State or Federal Law.
- Use, sale or possession of drug paraphernalia or other items that have been or can be used to smoke or ingest illegal drugs, controlled substances, or other substances that significantly alter one's physical and/or mental state (i.e., pipes, hookahs, bowls, bongs) as well as any violation of State or Federal Law.
- The use, sale, possession or consumption of alcohol as well as any violation of State or Federal Law, including underage drinking laws.
- The use, sale or possession of tobacco products, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco or snuff.
- Being in the presence of any other person on-campus who is engaging in a violation of the Campus drug or alcohol policy.

The College's alcohol and drug policies are shared with resident students during dorm meetings and with new students during the application process of "understanding rules." Student athletes annually attend a mandatory NCAA Athletics Title IX / Drug & Alcohol Education / Safety Meeting. Students may seek information on drug and alcohol abuse counseling and/or education programs from the College's counseling office. Students seeking this help are referred to Unity Chemical Dependency. Unity Chemical Dependency provides the most comprehensive and personalized treatment services in Western New York for adolescents, adults, older adults and their families. Highly specialized outpatient programs, inpatient rehabilitation and residential programs help clients and their families recover from addiction and get their lives back. The program will also work closely with families to help them learn how to support the recovery of their loved ones. Employees seeking assistance are allowed six paid sessions with Agape Counseling Services or Restoration Counseling Services.

Health Risks

Alcohol-Alcohol consumption causes a number of changes in behavior and physiology. Even low doses significantly impair judgment, coordination and abstract mental functioning. Statistics show that alcohol

use is involved in a majority of violent behaviors on college campuses including acquaintance rape, vandalism, fights and incidents of drinking and driving. Continued abuse may lead to dependency which often causes permanent damage to vital organs and deterioration of a healthy lifestyle.

Marijuana-The use of marijuana may impair or reduce short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time and reduce coordination and energy level. Users often have a lowered immune system and an increased risk of lung cancer. The active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is stored in the fatty tissues of the brain and reproductive system for a minimum of 28-30 days.

Cocaine/Crack-Cocaine users often have stuffy, runny noses and may have perforated nasal septum. The immediate effects of cocaine use elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate and body temperature followed by depression. Crack or free-base rock cocaine is extremely addictive and can cause delirium, hallucinations, blurred vision, severe chest pain, muscle spasms, convulsions and even death.

Heroin-is an opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant. Heroin can be injected, inhaled by snorting or sniffing, or smoked. All three routes of administration deliver the drug to the brain very rapidly, which contributes to its health risks and to its high risk for addiction. Heroin overdoses frequently involve a suppression of breathing. This can affect the amount of oxygen that reaches the brain, a condition called hypoxia. Hypoxia can have short and long-term psychological and neurological effects, including coma and permanent brain damage.

Methamphetamine- is an extremely addictive stimulant drug that is chemically similar to amphetamine. Methamphetamine increases the amount of the neurotransmitter dopamine, leading to high levels of that chemical in the brain. Methamphetamine’s ability to release dopamine rapidly in reward regions of the brain produces the euphoric “rush” or “flash” that many users experience. Because the pleasure also fades quickly, use can easily lead to addiction. Methamphetamine can cause anxiety, confusion, insomnia, and mood disturbances and display violent behavior. Use may also cause symptoms of psychosis, such as paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations, and delusions.

Hallucinogens-Lysergic acid (LSD) mescaline and psilocybin cause illusions and hallucinations. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety and loss of control. Delayed effects, or flashbacks, can occur even when use is ceased. Phencyclidine (PCP) affects the section of the brain that controls the intellect and keeps instincts in check. Because the drug blocks pain receptors, violent PCP episodes may result in self-inflicted injuries.

State and Federal Laws

NY State Laws	Law	Penalty
Alcohol	It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase or possess any alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume it.	A fine of up to \$50. and /or completion of a court ordered awareness program, and up to 36 hours of community service, may be imposed for each violation.
	It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to present false evidence of age to purchase alcoholic beverages.	A fine of up to \$100, up to a year’s probation, completion of a court ordered alcohol awareness program, up to 36 hours community service, and, if a driver’s license is used, suspension of the license. Possession of a false ID may result in a forgery charge.
	It is illegal to sell or give away alcoholic beverages to a person who is actually or apparently, under 21 or intoxicated.	Punishable as a misdemeanor.
	Driving while Intoxicated.	Driving while intoxicated is a criminal offense which may result in a

		fine, license revocation and imprisonment.
	Driving while intoxicated under the age of 21.	Under the Zero Tolerance Law, it is illegal for a person under twenty-one, with a blood alcohol content of 0.02 to 0.07, to operate a motor vehicle.
	Driving while intoxicated and causing another person's death or injury in a crash.	May be charged with vehicular manslaughter or vehicular assault.
	If a person is injured by someone who is intoxicated.	That person could have the right to recover damages against the person who unlawfully caused or contributed to such intoxication.
Illicit Drugs	Unlawful possession of marijuana.	Up to a \$50 fine.
	Selling more than 16 ounces of marijuana.	A felony punishable to up to 15 years in prison.
	Unlawful possession of small amounts of a controlled substance (e.g. LSD, PCP, cocaine, narcotics)	A Class A misdemeanor and may result in a \$1,000 fine or up to one year in jail.
	Violations of all other possession and sale laws involving controlled substances.	Considered felonies. In some cases, conviction may result in punishments up to life in prison.
Federal Laws	Law	Penalty
Illicit Drugs	First conviction of illegal possession of a controlled substance.	May result in imprisonment for up to one year and/or a fine of up to \$100,000.
	Subsequent conviction for illegal possession of a controlled substance.	Subsequent convictions carry stiffer criminal penalties. Other penalties may apply, such as forfeiture of property used in connection with the crime, denial of certain federal benefits, and revocation of certain federal licenses.
	Federal trafficking of marijuana (depends on the form of the substance, quantity and record of the violator).	A first offense violation may result in five years to life imprisonment (depending on the quantity) and/or a fine of \$250,000 to \$4 million.
	Federal trafficking of controlled substances such as heroin, cocaine, PCP and LSD (depends on the substance, quantity and record of the violator).	Penalties range from five years to life imprisonment and/or fines of up to \$8 million (within 1,000 feet of a University, prison terms and fines are twice the regular penalties for the offense, including a mandatory prison sentence of at least one year).

This summary is intended only to be a general overview of state and federal laws regarding the possession, use and distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. State and federal laws are subject to change. Consult an attorney or conduct your own research to verify current state and federal law.

New York State's Medical Marijuana Program

New York State's Medical Marijuana Program allows patients who suffer from specific serious conditions who also have a condition clinically associated with, or a complication of, the serious condition to be certified by a practitioner to receive medical marijuana products for medical use. Practitioners must complete a New York State Department of Health (Department) approved course and register with the Department to certify patients. Practitioners must consult the New York State Prescription Monitoring Program Registry prior to issuing a certification to a patient for medical marijuana. Patients who are certified by their practitioners must apply to the Department to obtain a registry identification card. Certified patients and designated caregivers who have been issued a registry identification card may visit one of the registered organizations' dispensing facilities in New York State to purchase approved medical marijuana products.

Treatment Programs

Alcohol and Drug counseling, treatment and rehabilitation programs are available to faculty, staff and students through a variety of off campus resources. Some of these services and programs are without charge; others are covered by insurance or based on ability to pay.

Alcoholics Anonymous Service Center	585.232.6720
Narcotics Anonymous Hotline	585.235.7889
National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence	585.426.8000
Unity Chemical Dependency	585.723.7723

