DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICIES
DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE AND CAMPUS

The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol on the campuses of Argosy University or in facilities controlled by Argosy University are prohibited by college regulations and are incompatible with the Argosy University goal of providing a healthy educational environment for students, faculty, staff and guests. The following information is provided in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989.

Effects of Drugs and Alcohol

Although individuals often use drugs and alcohol to achieve a variety of effects on mind and body that are found to be temporarily useful or pleasurable, drugs can be highly addictive and injurious. A person can pay a price in terms of his or her physical, emotional, and social health. This price can be paid in a number of ways. The risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, is increased through unwanted or unprotected sex when one is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Drugs can be the trigger for violent crime. Economic and legal problems usually follow directly when one tries to support a drug habit by resorting to crime. The dependence, illness, loss of job, and loss of family or friends that can result from drug or alcohol use and abuse can be tragic. In keeping with the mission of Argosy University and the requirements of state and federal law, Argosy University has adopted this policy to ensure a drug-free campus and workplace and to prevent the use of controlled substances and the abuse of alcohol.

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Alcohol

*Short-Term Risks*

- Increased risks of accidents and injuries
- Alcohol-related traffic accidents (the leading cause of death for teens)
- Alcohol slows reaction time, decreases muscle coordination, and impairs vision
- Fatal overdose
- Unconsciousness or blackout
- Death by aspiration of vomit
- Nausea
- Gastritis
Long-Term Risks

- Increased blood pressure
- Increased risk of heart attack
- Brain damage resulting in permanent psychosis
- Cancer of the mouth, esophagus or stomach
- Liver damage (cirrhosis, alcohol hepatitis, cancer)
- Ulcers and gastritis
- Pancreatitis
- Birth defects
- In males—testicular atrophy and breast enlargement
- In females—increased risk of breast cancer
- Prolonged, excessive drinking can shorten life span by 10 – 12 years.

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Drugs

Amphetamines (Speed, Uppers)

- Malnutrition
- Hallucinations
- Dependence, psychological and sometimes physical

Deliriants (Aerosols, Lighter Fluid, Paint Thinner)

- Permanent damage to lungs, brain, liver, bone marrow
- Loss of coordination, confusion, hallucinations
- Overdose causing convulsions, death

Depressants (Barbiturates, Tranquilizers, Methaqualone)

- Confusion, depression, loss of coordination
- Dependence, physical and psychological
- Coma, death (caused by overdose)
- Can be lethal when combined with alcohol
**Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, DMT, STP, Mescaline)**

- Hallucinations, panic, irrational behaviors (which can lead to increased risk of accidents, injuries)
- Tolerance overdose leading to convulsions, coma, death
- Possible birth defects in children of LSD users

**Intravenous Drug Use**

- Places one at risk for HIV infection (the virus causing AIDS) when needles are shared

**Marijuana and Hashish**

- Chronic bronchitis
- Decreased vital capacity
- Increased risk of lung cancer
- In men—lower levels of testosterone and increase in abnormal sperm count

**Stimulants (Cocaine)**

- Painful nosebleeds and nasal erosion
- Intense “downs” that result in physical and/or emotional discomfort
- Tolerance and physical dependence can develop

**Narcotics (Heroin, Morphine, Codeine, Opium)**

- Malnutrition
- Hepatitis
- Loss of judgment and self-control leading to increased risk of accidents, injuries
- Dependence
- Overdose leading to convulsions, coma, death
SANCTIONS

Argosy University Sanctions

Argosy University, in all of its actions, seeks to uphold local, state and federal laws. Insofar as permitted by these laws, Argosy University will apply sanctions that could lead to a student being fined, suspended or expelled or an employee being disciplined, suspended or dismissed for violation of the Argosy University standards of conduct. Students and employees may also be referred for prosecution. Disciplinary sanctions may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program, at the student’s or employee’s expense, if necessary.

General State Laws

Individuals under 21 may not purchase, accept as a gift, or possess alcoholic beverages on any street or highway or other public place. Consumption by minors is expressly prohibited. Licensees to sell alcoholic beverages are prohibited from selling, giving, or delivering alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21 years of age. It is unlawful for anyone of legal age to purchase or obtain alcoholic beverages and then sell, give, or deliver them to a minor.

Federal Sanctions

Federal penalties and sanctions for illegal possession of a controlled substance include the following:

First Conviction Up to 1 year in prison, fine of $1,000 to $100,000, or both

Second Conviction At least 15 days and up to 2 years imprisonment, $5,000 to $250,000 fine, or both

After Two Drug Convictions At least 90 days and up to 3 years in prison, $5,000 to $250,000 fine, or both. Special federal sentencing provisions for possession of crack cocaine include a mandatory prison term of at least 5 years and up to 20 years, fine of up to $250,000, or both, for a first conviction if the amount of crack exceeds 5 grams, for a second conviction if amount exceeds 3 grams, and for a third or subsequent conviction if the amount exceeds 1 gram.

Additional federal sanctions may also apply including forfeiture of vehicles used to transport controlled substances, denial of federal benefits including student loans, grants, and contracts and denial or revocation of certain federal licenses and benefits.

CONVICTIONS FOR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES

Any student convicted of any drug-related criminal statute must notify the director of Student Services, in writing, no later than five days after such conviction regardless of where the offense occurred. This is because under federal and state laws, any student convicted of a drug-related felony offense must be denied all federal and state assistance, including Pell Grants and state-specific grants. However, a criminal conviction shall not be necessary to find that a student has violated these standards of conduct, and Argosy University need not, and ordinarily will not, defer its own actions and sanctions pending the outcome of any criminal proceeding.
DANGER SIGNALS INDICATING A DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEM

Following is a listing of classic danger signals that may indicate the presence of a drug or alcohol problem:

- Abrupt changes in mood or attitude
- Decreased efficiency at work or at school
- Frequent absences, tardiness, and/or early departures
- Relationship problems with family, friends, and co-workers
- Unusual outbursts of anger and hostility
- Social withdrawal

COUNSELING, TREATMENT, OR REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Any student or employee who fails to abide by the terms of the above policy may be required to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a federal, state, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency.

RESOURCES

Specific programs of counseling or rehabilitation are available in the metropolitan area of each campus. The Student Services Department can provide a list of referral sources to students.