

Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program and the Drug-Free Workplace and Campus Program

Revised: August 21, 2023

Standards of Conduct

The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol on the campus of South University or in facilities controlled by the South University are prohibited by college regulations and are incompatible with the South 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 South University and the requirements of state and federal law, South University has adopted this program 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 ten to twelve years.

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Drugs

Amphetamines (Speed, Uppers):

- Malnutrition
- Hallucinations
- Dependence, psychological and sometimes physical

Deliriums (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

School Sanctions

South University, in all of its actions, seeks to uphold local, state and federal laws. Insofar as permitted by these laws, the South University will apply sanctions that could lead to a student being suspended or expelled or an employee being disciplined, suspended or dismissed for violation of the South 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.

State Sanctions in Virginia

The unlawful possession, distribution, and use of controlled substances and illegal drugs, as defined by the Virginia Drug Control Act, are prohibited in Virginia. Controlled substances are classified under the under the Act into “schedules”, ranging from Schedule I through Schedule VI, as defined in sections 54.1-3446 through 54.1.3456 of the Code of Virginia.

Alcohol

The minimum legal age for the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in Virginia is 21.

- **Underage alcohol consumption/possession is a Class 1 misdemeanor**
 - Mandatory driver’s license suspension – 6-month minimum (1-year max.)
 - \$500 fine or 50 hours of community service
 - Possible jail sentence: up to 1 year

- **Drinking alcohol in a public place/public intoxication is a Class 4 misdemeanor**
 - Possible fine up to \$250
 - Possible 1 day jail sentence

- **Purchasing, Giving, Providing or Assisting in Providing Alcohol to Person under 21 is a Class 1 misdemeanor**
 - Mandatory driver’s license suspension -6-month minimum (1-year max.)
 - Mandatory minimum \$500 fine (max. of \$2500 or 50 hours of community service)
 - Possible jail sentence up to one year
 - Any alcohol purchased is contraband and subject to forfeit

- **Using a fake ID to buy alcohol**
 - Mandatory driver’s license suspension -6-month minimum (1-year max.)
 - Mandatory minimum \$500 fine (max. of \$2500 or 50 hours of community service)
 - Possible jail sentence up to one year
 - Any alcohol purchased is contraband and subject to forfeit

- **Underage driving under the influence**
 - Zero Tolerance Laws in Virginia; drivers under the age of 21 cannot have a BAC test result of .02 or higher.
 - Mandatory driver’s license suspension for one year.
 - Offenders do not have the option of requesting a blood test instead of a breath test for an alcohol- related offense.

- **Driving under the influence 21 yrs. & above**
 - Drivers 21 years of age or older cannot have a BAC test result of .08 or higher.
 - Conviction of a first or subsequent DUI offense may result in a mandatory driver’s license suspension for one year, ignition interlock, mandatory jail time and mandatory alcohol education classes
 - Implied consent laws require a driver who is suspected of DUI to submit to chemical testing (breath, blood, or urine). Refusal to submit to such tests carries a penalty of up to one year’s suspension of the driver’s license.

- **Possess, sell, buy or use powdered or crystalline alcohol while under 21 years of age**
 - Powdered or crystalline alcohol are included in the definition of alcoholic beverages.
 - Law prohibits powdered or crystalline alcohol substances to be sold in or shipped into the Commonwealth

- Purchase, possession, offering for sale or use, selling or using powdered or crystalline alcohol is a Class 1 misdemeanor
- Mandatory driver's license suspension for 1 year
- Mandatory minimum \$500 fine (max. of \$2,500) **or** 50 hours of community service
- Possible jail sentence: Up to 1 year.

Marijuana and Other Drugs

➤ **Marijuana**

- Possession
 - Misdemeanor – jail for up to 30 days and fine up to \$500
- Sales/Distribution
 - Less than ½ ounce: Class 1 Misdemeanor – 12 months in jail plus \$1000 fine.
 - More than ½ ounce, less than 5 lbs.: Class 5 Felony – not less than 1 year in prison plus \$1000 fine.
 - More than 5 lbs.: Felony – 5-30 years

➤ **Other Drugs**

- Possession
 - *Schedule I or II Drugs* – Felony- imprisonment from 1 to 10 years or jail for up to 12 months and a fine of up to \$2,500.
 - *Schedule III Drugs* – Misdemeanor – jail for up to 12 months and a fine up to \$2500
 - *Schedule IV Drugs* – Misdemeanor – jail for up to 6 months and a fine up to \$1000
 - *Schedule V Drugs* – Misdemeanor – fine up to \$500
 - *Schedule VI Drugs* – Misdemeanor – fine up to \$250
- Sales/Distribution – Schedule I or II Drugs
 - Felony – imprisonment from 5 to 40 years and a fine up to \$100,000
- Sales/Distribution – Schedule III – V Drugs
 - Misdemeanor – fine up to \$250

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, \$2,500 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 (exhibit A).

Exhibit A:

Federal Trafficking Penalties for Schedules I, II, III, IV, and V (except Marijuana)				
Schedule	Substance/Quantity	Penalty	Substance/Quantity	Penalty
II	Cocaine 500-4999 grams mixture	<p>First Offense: Not less than 5 yrs. and not more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine of not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. and not more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.</p>	Cocaine 5 kilograms or more mixture	<p>First Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. and not more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine of not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 20 yrs. and not more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.</p> <p>2 or More Prior Offenses: Life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.</p>
II	Cocaine Base 28-279 grams mixture		Cocaine Base 280 grams or more mixture	
IV	Fentanyl 40-399 grams mixture		Fentanyl 400 grams or more mixture	
I	Fentanyl Analogue 10-99 grams mixture		Fentanyl Analogue 100 grams or more mixture	
I	Heroin 100-999 grams mixture		Heroin 1 kilogram or more mixture	
I	LSD 1-9 grams mixture		LSD 10 grams or more mixture	
II	Methamphetamine 5-49 grams pure or 50-499 grams mixture		Methamphetamine 50 grams or more pure or 500 grams or more mixture	
II	PCP 10-99 grams pure or 100-999 grams mixture		PCP 100 grams or more pure or 1 kilogram or more mixture	
Substance/Quantity		Penalty		
Any Amount Of Other Schedule I & II Substances		<p>First Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than Life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.</p>		
Any Drug Product Containing Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid		<p>Second Offense: Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if not an individual.</p>		
Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV) 1 Gram				
Any Amount Of Other Schedule III Drugs		<p>First Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not more than 15 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2.5 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not more than 30 yrs. Fine not more than \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.</p>		
Any Amount Of All Other Schedule IV Drugs (other than one gram or more of Flunitrazepam)		<p>First Offense: Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000 if an individual, \$1 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than an individual.</p>		
Any Amount Of All Schedule V Drugs		<p>First Offense: Not more than 1 yr. Fine not more than \$100,000 if an individual, \$250,000 if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 4 yrs. Fine not more than \$200,000 if an individual, \$500,000 if not an individual.</p>		

Federal Trafficking Penalties for Marijuana, Hashish and Hashish Oil, Schedule I Substances

<p>Marijuana 1,000 kilograms or more marijuana mixture or 1,000 or more marijuana plants</p>	<p>First Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if other than an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if other than an individual.</p>
<p>Marijuana 100 to 999 kilograms marijuana mixture or 100 to 999 marijuana plants</p>	<p>First Offense: Not less than 5 yrs. or more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if other than an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50million if other than an individual.</p>
<p>Marijuana 50 to 99 kilograms marijuana mixture, 50 to 99 marijuana plants</p>	<p>First Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if other than an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if other than an individual.</p>
<p>Hashish More than 10 kilograms</p>	
<p>Hashish Oil More than 1 kilogram</p>	
<p>Marijuana less than 50 kilograms marijuana (but does not include 50 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight) 1 to 49 marijuana plants</p>	<p>First Offense: Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000, \$1 million if other than an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. Fine \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than individual.</p>
<p>Hashish 10 kilograms or less</p>	
<p>Hashish Oil 1 kilogram or less</p>	

Convictions for Drug-Related Offenses

Any student convicted of any drug-related criminal statute must notify the Dean of Student Affairs, in writing, no later than five (5) days after such conviction regardless of where the offense occurred. This is because under state laws, any student convicted of a drug-related felony offense must be denied all state assistance. However, a criminal conviction shall not be necessary to find that a student has violated these standards of conduct, and the South 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

If you observe any of these changes in yourself or another student, you are encouraged to talk with a Counselor. Students of South University have access to our student assistance program, Be Well at South University, for counseling needs 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. You can access the service by calling 833-434-1217 or via [application](#), Telehealth, or in-person counseling sessions with a local provider. These are available to you regardless of location, and no insurance is necessary.

Abuse of alcohol or drugs can lead to dependency and addiction, with serious consequences for personal health and overall quality of life. There are drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation facilities available in our area where students and employees may seek advice and treatment. The College Counselor can refer you to one that meets your needs.

Area Resources

There are also organizations that may be contacted for help.

- Alcoholics Anonymous (804) 355-1212
- Brother's Keeper (804) 230-4918
- Challenge Discovery Project (804) 282-9100
- Drug & Alcohol Services (804) 355-8478
- Families Anonymous (804) 262-0932
- Family Counseling for Recovery (804) 354-1996
- Good Samaritan Ministries (804) 231-9995
- Narcotics Anonymous (800) 777-1515
- National Center for Substance Abuse (800) 662-4357
- Richmond Behavioral Health (804) 819-4000
- Rubicon (804) 359-3255
- The Healing Place (804) 230-1217

The National Institute on Drug Abuse Hotline (1.800.662.4357) is available from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Monday through Friday and from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on weekends.

A list of emergency resources is available from the Student Affairs Office.