

DRUG FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

It is the policy of Hawaii Medical Institute to comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 and the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. Accordingly, the following information regarding the use of illegal drugs and alcohol is provided annually to each student and employee of HMI.

Standards of Conduct

The unlawful use, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or any controlled substance on school premises or while involved in school-related activities off campus is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary sanctions.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Students who violate the school's prohibitions against drugs and alcohol are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the school. For more information students should consult the school catalog.

Loss of Title IV Eligibility

A student is ineligible to receive Title IV, HEA program funds if the student has been convicted of an offense involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs for the period described in the chart below:

NUMBER OF OFFENSES POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS SALE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

1st Offense: 1 year from the date of conviction

2nd Offense: 2 years from the date of conviction

3rd Offense: Indefinite period

State Drug Laws

State law considers the illegal use of drugs and alcohol serious crimes. The sanctions for first-time violations of these laws range from fines to lengthy terms of incarceration, or both. Additionally, local ordinances and municipal codes impose a variety of penalties for the illegal use of drugs and alcohol. The links to state laws contained in Appendix A are provided for informational purposes only. If you need legal advice, you should contact your personal attorney. There may also be civil consequences that result from the violation of state drug and alcohol statutes. Property associated with the criminal acts, including homes and vehicles, can be confiscated by the government. Persons convicted of felonies may be barred from government employment, and lose the right to vote.

Federal Drug Laws

Federal law considers the manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of illegal drugs, or any controlled substance, a serious crime. Appendix B provides a summary of the criminal sanctions for violations of federal drug statutes.

For the most up-to-date Federal Trafficking Penalties information, visit the website of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration at <http://www.dea.gov/agency/penalties.htm>.

Health Risks

Drug use causes physical and emotional dependence, interferes with memory, sensation and perception, and in some cases, may cause permanent brain damage or sudden death. The following is a summary of the various health risks associated with alcohol abuse and use of specific types of drugs, and is not intended to be an exhaustive or a final statement of all possible health consequences of substance abuse.

Alcohol

Alcohol consumption has acute effects on the body and causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses may significantly impair judgment and coordination. Alcohol is an especially dangerous drug for pregnant women.

Marijuana

Marijuana contains THC, a chemical that alters the sensory activities of the brain, including long-term memory capabilities, comprehension, altered sense of time, decreased motivation, and reduced ability to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination. Marijuana smoke contains more cancer-causing agents than tobacco.

Cocaine/Crack

Cocaine and crack are highly addictive and may lead to heart attacks, strokes, and long-term brain damage. Other physical effects include dilated pupils, increased pulse rate, elevated blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite, tactile hallucinations, paranoia, and seizures. Continued use can produce violent behavior and psychosis.

Methamphetamine/Amphetamines

Methamphetamine is a central nervous system stimulant of the amphetamine family. Like cocaine and crack, methamphetamines are highly addictive “uppers” that produce extreme alertness and elation, along with a variety of severe adverse reactions. Methamphetamine is generally cheaper than cocaine and because the body metabolizes it slower, the effects may last as much as 10 times longer. Methamphetamine users can experience sustained, severe mood and thought disturbances, serious physical effects, including sudden death.

Narcotics

Narcotics such as heroin, methadone, oxycodone, codeine, morphine, and opium initially produce a feeling of euphoria that often is followed by drowsiness, nausea, and vomiting. An overdose may produce shallow breathing,

clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and death. Tolerance to narcotics develops rapidly and dependence is likely. The use of contaminated syringes may result in diseases such as AIDS, endocarditis, and hepatitis.

Ecstasy

“Designer drugs” such as Ecstasy are related to amphetamines in that they have mild stimulant properties but are mostly euphoriant. They can cause nausea, blurred vision, chills or sweating, and faintness. Psychological effects include anxiety, depression, and paranoia. As little as one dose can cause severe neurochemical brain damage. Narcotic designer drugs can cause symptoms such as uncontrollable tremors, drooling, impaired speech, paralysis, and irreversible brain damage.

GHB/Rohypnol

Often known as “date rape” drugs, GHB and Rohypnol initially produce a feeling of intoxication similar to alcohol (the user feels relaxed, sociable, affectionate and playful, and disinhibited) followed by a feeling of drowsiness. Higher doses can lead to a sleep from which the user cannot be woken. The effects can last from four to 24 hours. Both GHB and Rohypnol present a serious overdose threat. Since they are depressants, both drugs can be fatal when mixed with alcohol. Symptoms of overdose can include intense drowsiness, unconsciousness or coma, muscle spasms, disorientation, vomiting, and slowed or stopped breathing (fatalities usually occur from respiratory failure).

Inhalants

Inhalants are readily available and inexpensive. More than 1,000 common household products can be used to get high. Examples of organic solvents (carbon compounds) include gasoline, lighter fluid and butane lighter fuel, spray paint, paint thinner, rubber-cement, hair spray, nail polish, and many cleaning fluids. Nitrite compounds (amyl nitrite, butyl nitrite) act mainly as vasodilators. Nitrous oxide (laughing gas) is packaged in small metal cartridges (called whippets), which are often used to make whipped cream. Inhalants irritate breathing passages, provoking severe coughing, painful inflammation, and nosebleeds. Inhalants may not produce a pleasant high and result in mental confusion, hallucinations, and paranoia. They may also result in respiratory depression leading to unconsciousness, coma, permanent brain damage, or death. The danger is extremely great if inhalants are used in conjunction with other nervous system depressants, such as alcohol or barbiturates. Even first-time users run the risk of sudden sniffing death (SSD). The risk of SSD is higher if the abuser engages in strenuous physical activity or is suddenly startled.

Steroids

Steroids are manufactured testosterone-like drugs used to increase muscle mass, strength, and endurance. The liver and the cardiovascular and reproductive systems are most seriously affected by steroid use. Psychological effects include very aggressive behavior (“roid rage”), severe mood swings, manic episodes, and depression.

Drug and Alcohol Programs

Students requiring or requesting information about drug abuse treatment should contact Student Services or the designated campus official for contact information of local agencies and programs. Employees requiring information about drug abuse treatment should contact the Employee Assistance Program at ALTRES.

Additional helpful information and resources may be found by contacting the following organizations:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
1-800-662-HELP (1-800-662-4357)
<http://www.samhsa.gov>

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
1-800-NCA-CALL (1-800-622-2255)
<http://www.ncadd.org>