



2014-2015 DRUG/ALCOHOL POLICY At Welch College

The college takes a strong stand against the possession, consumption, or distribution of illegal drugs and alcoholic beverages and the misuse of prescription drugs. We feel that scriptures speak very clearly of the evils of illegal drugs or alcohol and the illegal use of prescription drugs. For this reason, we expect our students to refrain from these because of the distortion of thought/good judgment that impairs complete obedience to the Word and the Holy Spirit. In addition, our own Free Will Baptist Church Treatise forbids the “use or sale of alcoholic beverages” by those who would be church members. Therefore, our students are not allowed to work where alcohol is sold.

The reason for this memo is to adhere to federal law, which requires that we inform you in writing of our drug policy and the possible consequences of possessing, consuming, or distributing illegal drugs and/or alcoholic beverages while on or off campus.

The Student Handbook contains a section entitled “Standards of Conduct.” The second item in that section reads as follows: It should be very obvious that the college will not tolerate the use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or narcotics in any form. **The use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, or the illegal use of prescription drugs, will likely result in suspension or expulsion of a student, even for first offenses.**

Our policy on the possession, consumption or distribution of alcoholic beverages is as follows: “It shall be a violation of Welch College’s Standards of Conduct to possess, consume or distribute to others illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages in any form. Violation of this provision will result in suspension or expulsion from school for students and employment termination for faculty, staff and administration personnel and possible severe criminal penalties under local, state, and federal law.”

Recent federal legislation requires that these penalties be set forth in writing and we have listed them below.

Welch College upholds local, state, and federal laws regarding the possession, use, and distribution of alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or drug paraphernalia off campus as well.

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS*

The Metropolitan Government of Nashville/Davidson County prohibits the following acts and prescribes the corresponding penalties:

It is unlawful to possess a hypodermic needle, syringe, or other items used with an illicit drug or controlled substance that has traces of a controlled substance upon it. It is illegal to sell or give certain types of glue or plastic cement to anyone under 21 years of age. Being under the influence of one of these substances in public is also prohibited. It is unlawful for any person under the age of 19 to be present in an automobile on any public street when alcoholic beverages are being consumed in the automobile or to be present in any public park and be a companion of or otherwise associated with any person who is consuming alcoholic beverages who is not his or her parent or guardian or who has not secured written consent from the parent or guardian for the child to be present. It shall be a violation for any person, while on a public street or in a place generally open to the public (and not licensed for the on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages) to have in their possession any alcoholic beverage for the purpose of consumption in a container unless the container is commercially sealed. Each of these offenses is punishable by a fine up to \$500. Failure to pay the fine can result in a three month jail term.

The State of Tennessee prohibits the following acts and prescribes the corresponding penalties:

Persuading, enticing, or sending a person under 21 years of age to purchase alcoholic beverages or buying an alcoholic beverage for one under the age of 21 is punishable by up to 200 hours of community service and revocation of driving privileges. It is illegal to be intoxicated in public. Such behavior can result in up to 30 days in jail and/or a \$50 fine. Consuming or possessing alcohol on the premises of an elementary, junior high or high school is punishable by up to 30 days in jail and/or a \$50 fine. Driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or drug is punishable by a jail term of up to 7 days, up to a \$1500 fine and loss of driving privileges for one year for the first offense; a jail term of 11 months and 29 days, up to a \$3,500 fine and loss of driving privileges for two years for the second offense; and a jail term of 11 months 29 days, up to a \$10,000 fine and the loss of driving privileges for up to 10 years for the third offense. In addition, a court may order inpatient treatment at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. Killing another person while driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs can result in up to a 30 year sentence, a fine of up to \$10,000 and the loss of one's license for up to 10 years. Being intoxicated and, as a result of intoxication, recklessly causing serious bodily injury to another while operating a motor vehicle is punishable by two to 12 years in prison, the loss of driving privileges for one year per offence with a maximum loss of 5 years and a fine up to \$5,000. Consuming or possessing in an open container any alcoholic beverage or beer while operating a motor vehicle may result in a fine up to \$50. It is illegal to possess with the intent to manufacture, deliver or sell an illicit drug or controlled substance. Depending on the type of substance and its quantity, such fines will be at least \$5,000 but not more than \$250,000, is subject to a jail term of up to 11 months and 29 days and a \$2,500 fine. If two or more prior convictions are present, the possible sentence increases to six years in prison and a \$3,000 fine. In addition, a court may order enrollment in a drug offender school and/or community service at a drug treatment facility. The casual exchange of even small amounts of an illicit drug or controlled substance with a minor can result in a penalty of up to life in prison and a \$500,000 fine. Inhaling, selling, giving, or possessing glue, paint, gas aerosol or gas for an unlawful purpose is punishable by a jail term of 11 months and 29 days to six years and a fine of up to \$3,000. It is illegal to sell or buy any item that is represented to be an illicit drug or controlled substance. Such an act is punishable by up to six years in prison and a \$3,000 fine. It is illegal to sell, deliver, or possess the seeds of jimsonweed on the premises of any elementary, junior high or high school. The penalty for such an act is 11 months and 29 days in jail and/or a fine up to \$2,500. It is unlawful to possess with the intent to manufacture or deliver an anabolic steroid. This act is punishable by two to 12 years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.

Federal law prohibits the following acts and prescribes the corresponding penalties:

United States Penalties and Sanctions for Illegal Possession of a Controlled Substance

21 U.S.C. § 844(a)

First conviction: Up to one year imprisonment and fine of at least \$1,000. *After one prior drug conviction:* At least fifteen days in prison, not to exceed two years, and fine of at least \$2,500. *After two or more prior drug convictions:* At least ninety days in prison, not to exceed three years, and fine of at least \$5,000.

21 U.S.C. §§ 853(a)(2) and 881(a)(7)

Forfeiture of personal and real property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance if that offense is punishable by more than one year imprisonment.

21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(4)

Forfeiture of vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other conveyance used to transport or conceal a controlled substance. [An automobile may be impounded in cases involving any controlled substance in any amount.]

21 U.S.C. § 844a

Any individual who knowingly possesses a controlled substance in a personal use amount shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each such violation.

21 U.S.C. § 862

Denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses, up to one year for first offense, up to five years for second and subsequent offenses.

18 U.S.C. § 922(g)

Ineligibility to receive or purchase a firearm or ammunition.

Miscellaneous

Revocation of certain federal licenses and benefits (e.g., pilot licenses, public housing tenancy) are vested within the authorities of individual federal agencies. Violations of federal trafficking laws that involve either (1) distribution or possession of controlled substances at, or near, a school or University campus, or (2) distribution of controlled substances to persons, less than twenty-one (21) years of age, incur doubled penalties under federal law.

*This document contains summaries of local, state, and federal sanctions for the unlawful use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Portions originated from the federal government. However, while the summary is a good faith effort to provide information, Welch College does not guarantee its accuracy.

Health Risks Associated With Drug or Alcohol Use

The use of illicit drugs and alcohol can result in severe injury and death. Consumption of alcohol can cause addiction, accidents as a result of impaired ability and judgment, heart and liver damage and possibly death when consumed in excessive quantity or when mixed with other depressants.

The use of cocaine or crack is highly addictive. Cocaine and crack can cause heart attacks, seizures, lung damage, severe depression, paranoia, and death.

Smoking marijuana causes impaired short term memory, addiction, and panicked behavior.

The use of hallucinogens such as LSD and PCP causes anxiety, panic, nausea, emotional instability, violent and unpredictable behavior, and death.

Inhaling gasoline, glues, or aerosols can result in unconsciousness, suffocation, nausea and vomiting, damage to the brain and central nervous system and sudden death.

Using narcotics such as heroin, Demerol, or dilaudid causes addiction, lethargy weight loss, the threat of AIDS from shared needles, and death.

The abuse of stimulants like speed, uppers, or nicotine can be addictive. They cause exhaustion, paranoia, depression, confusion, hallucinations, and death.

Finally, depressants such as barbiturates and tranquilizers are addictive. They can cause death when combined with alcohol.

Treatment Information

Various Christian treatment centers are listed with the *Crisis Intervention Center*. Their phone number is (615)244-7444.

The US Department of Health and Human Services has provided an online treatment search engine at:

<http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/TreatmentLocator/faces/quickSearch.jspx> .

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