

Policy Prohibiting Drugs and Alcohol

MDCC strictly prohibits the unlawful possession, use, manufacture, distribution, or dispensation of illicit drugs, including drug paraphernalia, and alcohol on campus and during any college-sponsored activities.

MDCC shall annually distribute this Drug and Alcohol Policy in writing to all students enrolled in one or more credit-bearing courses and to all employees. Distribution may occur electronically through institutional email, the college website, student and employee handbooks, or other official college communication methods.

Students

The following is a list of minimum disciplinary actions that will be taken should a student choose to violate the drug and alcohol regulations on the MDCC campus:

- a. The illegal use and/or possession of illegal drugs will result in, but not be limited to, automatic suspension from the residence halls, with a maximum possible penalty of suspension from the College.
- b. The use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages will result in:
 1. 10 hours of supervised work
 2. \$200.00 fine
 3. Mandatory counseling until the student is released from the counseling center
 4. Probation and/or possible suspension as a resident student with a maximum possible penalty of suspension from the College

Employees

Employees are prohibited from the unlawful possession, use, manufacture, distribution, or dispensation of illicit drugs and alcohol on college property or as part of any college-sponsored activity. Employees found in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including mandatory participation in a rehabilitation program, suspension, termination of employment, and/or referral for criminal prosecution consistent with local, state, and federal law.

Definitions and Legal Sanctions

c. Illicit drugs are defined in Section 202 of the Controlled Substance Act and the Mississippi Uniform Controlled Substance Law, Mississippi Code Supplement (1989). Alcoholic beverages are defined in Sections 41-29-139, 141, 61-1-37, 81, and 97-29-7 of the Mississippi Code Annotated for 1972 (1989 Supplement).

As specified in Sections 41-29-142, 41-29-139, 61-1-37, 61-1-81, and 97-29-47 of the Mississippi Code Supplement, legal sanctions are applied to the following actions: possession of alcohol on college property; public drunkenness on college property; utilization of false identification to obtain alcohol;

driving under the influence of alcohol; possession of illicit drugs; sale of illicit drugs near schools; possession of paraphernalia; and sale of paraphernalia. Sanctions range from fines of \$25 to \$1 million and jail sentences of 30 days in the county jail to 30 years in the state penitentiary.

Violations of this policy may result in referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities for investigation and prosecution in addition to institutional disciplinary action.

Counseling, Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Re-Entry Programs

MDCC encourages students and employees experiencing problems related to drug or alcohol use to seek assistance. Counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, and re-entry assistance may be available through community agencies, healthcare providers, employee assistance programs, mental health providers, and referrals through the college counseling office or student services division. Students or employees seeking assistance voluntarily will be directed to appropriate resources and support services when available.

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Illicit Drugs and the Abuse of Alcohol

- Accidents and car crashes while under the influence
- Chills, nausea, and irregular breathing
- Heart irregularities, coma, and even death
- Increased blood pressure and temperature
- Increased pulse and heart rate
- Major organ damage to the brain, lungs, liver, spleen, and stomach
- Overdoses may be lethal
- Possible permanent genetic damage
- Predictable cycles of “high,” energetic to tired, depressed, irritable “lows”
- Risk of AIDS and other infections from sharing needles

Biennial Review

MDCC shall conduct a biennial review of its Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program to determine the program’s effectiveness, implement needed changes, and ensure that disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced. The review shall include an evaluation of policy compliance, disciplinary actions, educational efforts, and available prevention resources.

Record Retention and Availability

MDCC shall maintain records related to the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program, including policy distribution records and biennial review documentation, for a minimum of three years in accordance with federal regulations. Upon request, the College will make available copies of the policy and biennial review results to the appropriate authorities and the public as required by law.

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Last updated 2026.05.07