

Date: August 19th, 2024
To: All Commonwealth University Students, Faculty and Staff
From: The Dean of Students Office
Re: Alcohol and Other Drug Resources & Policies

Dear Commonwealth University,

As you are well aware, the use and/or abuse of alcohol and other drugs can have a negative impact on the well-being of college students, employees and on the University community. In an effort to educate, help those in need, and comply with Part 86 of the Drug Free Schools and Campuses regulations, this in-depth memorandum is being provided to the entire University community. I ask for your compliance with alcohol and other drug policies and encourage your active participation in fostering a responsible, safe, and caring community. Please feel free to keep this memorandum as a resource for you to refer to throughout the academic year.

This memorandum serves as the annual notification to each employee and student of Commonwealth University. This memorandum will outline the following:

1. A description of **Campus Resources** available at Commonwealth University including prevention, drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, or re-entry programs available to students and employees.
2. **Legal Sanctions** imposed for unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol.
3. **Standards of Conduct** prohibiting the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees which include:
 - a. [The Student Code of Conduct](#)
 - b. [Drug Free Workplace Policy](#)
 - c. [Drug Policy](#)
 - d. [Alcoholic Beverage Policy](#)
 - e. Descriptions of disciplinary sanctions
4. A description of the **Health Risks** associated with the use and/or abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

1. CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Knowing how to cope with problems and keeping yourself informed are important steps in successfully navigating the rigorous demands of college life. Help is available for faculty/staff members and students who are dependent on, or who abuse, alcohol or other drugs.

A variety of resources and referrals are available for students, staff and faculty who have concerns regarding their own or someone else's use of alcohol and/or other drugs and include Health Services, Counseling Center, Alcohol and Drug Prevention Services, the State Employee Assistance Program and University Police. If you wish to contact off-campus resources, the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and PAStop are excellent resources, where you find treatment providers throughout the State. These PA agencies provide various services and may include intake and evaluation, detoxification, intensive outpatient program, residential program, DUI evaluations, and remedial education. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact each agency for additional information regarding specific services and costs. These professional agencies will maintain the confidentiality of persons seeking help for personal dependency and will not report them to institutional or state authorities.

Contact information for the above resources can be found in the following list:

	Bloomsburg	Lock Haven	Mansfield
Health Services	Kehr Union Building 570-389-4451 Website	Glennon Building 570-484-2276 Website	Spruce Hall 570-662-4350 Website
Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Services	Warren Student Services Center 570-389-4980 Website	*Services Available Remotely* 570-389-4980 Website	*Services Available Remotely* 570-389-4980 Website
Counseling Services	Warren Student Services Center 570-389-4255 Website	First Floor Ulmer Hall 570-484-2479 Website	South Hall 570-662-4436 Website
University Police	Andruss Library on Swisher Circle 570-389-2211 Website	Glennon Building 570-484-2278 Website	Doane Center 570-662-4900 Website
Resources for Employees	State Employee Assistance Program (SEAP) 800-692-7459 Website		

Off-Campus Resources	Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs https://www.ddap.pa.gov/ PAStop www.PAStop.org
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Further, Commonwealth University provides useful and informative preventative education programs throughout the year. A variety of departments sponsor programs, workshops, and lectures on alcohol and other drug issues to support healthy lifestyles.

2. LEGAL SANCTIONS:

A. PA State Laws/Sanctions:

The Pennsylvania Crime Code and the Pennsylvania Liquor Code govern the consumption, distribution and sale of alcohol and drugs. In Pennsylvania, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to consume, purchase, or possess alcohol. Recreational marijuana use is illegal in Pennsylvania. A partial summary of relevant state law is included below:

PA Alcohol & Drug Laws				
OFFENSE	PENALTY	1st OFFENSE	2nd OFFENSE	3rd OFFENSE
Section 5505 Public Drunkenness				
A person is guilty of a summary offense if he/she appears in any public place manifestly under the influence of alcohol ... to the degree that he/she may endanger himself/herself or other persons or property or annoy persons in his/her vicinity.	Fine Jail	0-\$500 0-90 days	0-\$1,000 0-90 days	0-\$1,000 0-90 days
Section 6307 Misrepresentation of Age to Secure Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages				
A person is guilty of a summary offense for a 1st violation and a misdemeanor of the 3rd degree for any subsequent violations if he/she being under the age of 21 years, knowingly and falsely represents himself/herself to be 21 years of age or older to any licensed dealer, distributor or other person, for the purpose of procuring or having furnished to him/her, any liquor or malt or brewed beverages.	Fine Jail License Susp.	0-\$300 0-90 days 90 days	0-\$500 0-1 year 1 year	0-\$500 0-1 year 2 years
Section 6308 Purchase, Consumption, Possession or Transportation of Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages				
A person commits a summary offense if he/she, being less than 21 years of age, attempts to purchase, purchase, consumes, possesses, or knowingly and intentionally transports any liquor or malt or brewed beverages.	Fine Jail License Susp. <small>Notify Parent (of Minor)</small>	0-\$500 0-90 days 90 days Yes	0-\$1,000 0-90 days 0-1 year Yes	0-\$1,000 0-90 days 2 years Yes
Section 6309 Representing That a Minor is "of Age"				
A person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the 3rd degree if he/she knowingly, willfully, and falsely represents to any licensed dealer, or other person, any minor to be of full age, for the purpose of inducing [that] person to sell or furnish any liquor or malt or brewed beverages to the minor.	Fine Jail	\$300-\$2,500 0-1 year	\$300-\$2,500 0-1 year	\$300-\$2,500 0-1 year
Section 6310 Inducement of Minors to Buy Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages				
A person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the 3rd degree if he/she hires, requests, or induces any minor to purchase or offer to purchase liquor or malt or brewed beverages from a duly licensed dealer for any purpose. <i>(Exception for compliance checks.)</i>	Fine Jail	\$300-\$2,500 0-1 year	\$300-\$2,500 0-1 year	\$300-\$2,500 0-1 year
Section 6310.1 Selling or Furnishing Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages to Minors				
A person commits a misdemeanor of the 3rd degree if he/she intentionally and knowingly sells or furnishes, or purchases with the intent to sell or furnish, any liquor or malt or brewed beverages to a person who is less than 21 years of age. <i>(This section does not apply to any religious service or ceremony which may be conducted in a private home or a place of worship where the amount of wine served does not exceed the amount, customarily and traditionally required as an integral part of the service or ceremony.)</i>	Fine Jail	\$1,000-\$2,500 0-1 year	\$2,500 0-1 year	\$2,500 0-1 year
Section 6310.2 Manufacture or Sale of False Identification Card				
A person commits a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree if he/she intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly manufactures, makes, alters, sells, or attempts to sell an identification card falsely representing the identity, birth date or age of another.	Fine Jail	\$1,000-\$5,000 0-2 years	\$2,500-\$5,000 0-2 years	\$2,500-\$5,000 0-2 years
Section 6310.3 Carrying a False Identification Card				
A person commits a summary offense for a 1st violation and a misdemeanor of the 3rd degree for any subsequent violations if he/she, being under 21 years of age, possesses an identification card falsely identifying that person by name, age, date of birth or photograph as being 21 years of age or older and obtains or attempts to obtain liquor or malt or brewed beverages by using the identification card of another or by using an identification card that has not been lawfully issued to or in the name of that person who possesses the card.	Fine Jail License Susp. Notify Parent (Of Minor)	0-\$300 0-90 days 90 days Yes	0-\$500 0-1 year 1 year Yes	0-\$500 0-1 year 2 years Yes
Section 6310.7 Selling or Furnishing Nonalcoholic Beverages to Persons Under 21				
A person commits a summary offense if he/she intentionally and knowingly sells or furnishes nonalcoholic beverages to any person under 21 years of age. <i>(As used in this section, the term "nonalcoholic beverage" means any beverage intended to be marketed or sold as nonalcoholic beer, wine, or liquor having some alcohol content but does not contain more than 0.5% alcohol by volume.)</i>	Fine Jail	0-\$300 0-90 days	0-\$300 0-90 days	0-\$300 0-90 days
Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Law				
It is a crime to drive or operate any vehicle under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance or drug. It is also a crime to drive or operate a vehicle when the amount of alcohol by weight in the blood of the person equals or exceeds 0.08%.	Fine Jail License Susp.		Penalties for violation include a minimum fine of \$300.00; loss or suspension of driver's license; participation in and completion of a counseling or treatment program; and imprisonment from 48 hours (about 2 days) to not less than one year, depending on the nature and number of prior violations.	
Marijuana Possession				
For possession of 30 grams or less: • Up to 30 days in jail • Fine of \$500	For possession of more than 30 grams: • Up to 1 year in jail • Up to \$5000 in fines • Automatic six-month loss of license • Potential charge of possession with intent to deliver or distribute in many cases.		For second (2nd) offense possession charges, or multiple subsequent offenses, the penalties may double.	
Drug Possession				
Possession of other Controlled Substances (Such as but not limited to Heroin, Cocaine, LSD/Acid, Ecstasy/MMDA, Meth, and prescription drugs including Vicodin and Oxycontin or illegal steroids)	Fine Jail	• Up to one year in prison, and/or a \$5,000 fine for the first (1st) offense. • Up to two years in prison for a second (2nd) offense.		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to three years in prison for a third (3rd) offense. • Possession of more than five grams of crack cocaine may be subject to a minimum penalty of 5 years in prison.
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, or Selling/distributing Marijuana		
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, or Selling/distributing Marijuana	Fine Jail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1 year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2500. • For selling to a minor, under Pennsylvania Drug laws, it can be a felony charge of up to 2 years in jail and a \$5000 fine.

B. Federal Laws/Sanctions:

The United States has multiple laws governing the possession of drugs and alcohol. The following is a summary of some of the relevant laws and potential sanctions:

Possession of Illicit Drugs

- Federal laws prohibit illegal possession of controlled substances.
 - First offense: Prison sentences up to one year and up to \$100,000.
 - Second offense: Prison sentences up to two years and fines up to \$250,000.
 - Special sentencing provisions apply for possession of crack cocaine, including imprisonment of five to twenty years and fines up to \$250,000 for first offenses, depending upon the quantity of crack possessed.

Trafficking of Illicit Drugs

- Under federal law, the manufacture, sale or distribution of all Schedule I and II illicit drugs (e.g., cocaine, methamphetamines, heroin, PCP, LSD, Fentanyl, and all mixtures containing such substances) is a felony.
 - First offense: Prison sentences of five years to life (20 years to life if death or serious injury is involved) and fines of up to \$4 million for offenses by individuals (\$10 million for other than individuals).
- Federal law prohibits trafficking in marijuana, hashish, and mixtures containing such substances.
 - First offense: Maximum penalties range from five years to life (20 years to life if death or serious injury is involved) and fines of up to \$4 million for offenses by individuals (\$10 million for other than individuals). Penalties vary depending upon the quantity of drugs involved.
 - Second offense: Penalties range from 10 years to life (not less than life if death or serious injury is involved) and fines up to \$8 million for individuals (\$20 million for other than individuals).
- The illegal trafficking of medically useful drugs (e.g., prescription and over-the-counter drugs) is illegal.
 - First offense: Prison sentence of up to five years.
 - Second offense: Prison sentence of up to 10 years.

C. Local Laws/Sanctions:

Many PA municipalities prohibit open containers of alcoholic beverages and consumption of alcohol in public areas. It is the responsibility of all university community members to know the local laws of the locations where they work or study.

Bloomsburg:

The Town of Bloomsburg imposes a fine of up to \$1000 under [Ordinance # 6-5, 6-502, 6-503, 6-504](#) for public consumption and open containers.

Lock Haven:

The city of Lock Haven imposes a fine of up to \$600 and up to 30 days in jail under [Ordinance 170: Alcoholic Beverages](#) for public consumption, open containers, and open containers within vehicles.

Mansfield:

The Borough of Mansfield imposes a fine of up to \$300, under [Chapter 55: Alcoholic Beverages](#), for public consumption, open containers, and open containers within vehicles.

3. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:

Campus standards of conduct are outlined in the following:

- [The Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Drug Free Workplace Policy](#)

- [Drug Policy](#)
- [Alcoholic Beverage Policy](#)

As a member of the university community, you are responsible for your behavior and are fully accountable for your actions, both on and off campus. The above policies prohibit the sale, distribution, use, and possession of alcohol or illicit drugs on University property.

The institution will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees, which is consistent with state and federal laws, and a description of those sanctions, up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, for violations of the standards of conduct. Students who violate these standards of conduct will be subject to the student conduct process and may face a variety of sanctions including suspension or dismissal from the University. Other disciplinary sanctions may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program. In addition, the University will cooperate with governmental authorities in criminal and civil actions.

4. ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG HEALTH RISKS:

The use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs can cause a number of problematic changes in behavior and physiology. Alcohol or substance dependence occurs when a person continues their use despite recurrent social, interpersonal, physical, and/or legal consequences.

All drugs, even over-the-counter and legal prescriptions, have possible side effects that can cause impairments for some people. However, these drugs are regulated, and risks are written on the packaging. With illegal drugs, there are no guidelines, and you can never be sure of their strength or purity. Here are some things to consider:

- Most, if not all, illegal drugs are mixed with impurities.
- Cocaine is highly addictive. It is easy to get addicted both psychologically and physically.
- THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, remains in your body for one month following use.
- Marijuana smoke produces all of the harmful effects of tobacco smoke and contains 50 percent more of the cancer-causing chemicals.
- Alcohol and illicit drugs are major factors in a large proportion of unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, date rapes, accidental injuries, and deaths.
- Long-term drug use and addiction can cause lasting social effects as well as permanent physical damage. Every organ system can suffer, especially the heart, liver, and brain.

Too much alcohol, too fast, can kill you. It is always okay not to drink. If you do choose to drink, make healthy choices. Following 0-1-3 can reduce impairment, health, and legal problems:

- Zero alcohol intake if you are under 21 years old, sick, using medications or other drugs, pregnant, chemically dependent, driving, or have a strong family history of alcoholism
- 1 – one drink per hour: Your body can only metabolize one average drink per hour.
- 3 – no more than three drinks on any day, and never three drinks daily.

A human brain continues major development through age twenty-five. Drinking during this critical developmental period, especially drinking to the point of getting drunk may impair brain function for the rest of the person's life. Memory, motor skills, and coordination can be affected. Young people are particularly likely to binge drink and to suffer repeated bouts of withdrawal from alcohol. This repeated withdrawal may be a key reason for alcohol's harmful effects on the brain.

For basic information about the risk of alcohol and other drugs please visit:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/about-alcohol-use/index.html>
- <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/medical-consequences-drug-abuse>

Commonwealth University is committed to upholding the alcohol and other drug policies outlined in the [Student Code of Conduct](#), Alcohol policies, and Drug Policies. These policies, combined with alcohol and other drug prevention programs and intervention resources contribute greatly to the overall wellness and safety of both the individual student and the greater university community.

Sincerely,

George Rusczyk (He/Him)
 Dean of Students
 Enrollment Management & Student Affairs