

DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION PROGRAM

The use and abuse of drugs and alcohol are subjects of immediate concern in our society. These problems are extremely complex and ones for which there are no easy solutions. From a safety perspective, the users and/or abusers of drugs or alcohol may impair the well-being of all employees, students, the public at large, and result in damage to college property. Therefore, in compliance with the Federal Drug-Free Workplace and Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, it is the policy of this college that the unlawful use, possession, manufacture, distribution, or dispensation of a controlled substance or alcohol, is prohibited while in the college workplace, on college premises, or as part of any college-sponsored activities. Any employee or student violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion and referral for prosecution. The specifics of this policy are as follows:

1. Bladen Community College does not differentiate among unlawful users, pushers, or sellers of drugs or alcohol. Any employee or student who unlawfully possesses, uses, sells, gives or transfers a controlled substance or alcoholic beverage to another person while in the college workplace, on college premises, or as part of any college-sponsored activity, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion, and referral for prosecution.
2. The term "controlled substance" means any drug listed in 21 CFR part 1308 and other federal regulations, as well as those listed in Article V, Chapter 90 of North Carolina General Statutes. Generally, these are drugs which have a high potential for abuse. Such drugs include, but are not limited to heroin, PCP, cocaine, "crack", and marijuana. They also include "legal drugs" which are not prescribed by a licensed physician. The term "alcoholic beverage" includes beer, wine, whiskey and any other beverage listed in Chapter 18B of the General Statutes of North Carolina.
3. If any employee or student is convicted of violating any criminal drug or alcoholic beverage control statute while in the college workplace, on college premises, or as part of any college-sponsored activity, he or she will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion. Specifically, any such person who is convicted of a felony, or of a misdemeanor which results in an active prison sentence may, if a student, be expelled, or if an employee, be terminated from employment (subject to existing disciplinary policies applicable to employees and State or Federal law which may apply). Other misdemeanor convictions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and the penalties to be imposed may range from written warnings or mandatory counseling or rehabilitation to expulsion from enrollment or discharge from employment. Any such person charged with a violation of these policies concerning illegal drugs may be suspended from enrollment or employment before initiation or completion of disciplinary proceedings if the Executive Committee determines that the continued presence of such person within the college community would constitute a clear and immediate danger to the health or welfare of other members of the community after an appropriate pre-termination inquiry. All employees and students of the college are currently eligible and are encouraged to participate without cost in a Student/Employee assistance program which offers, among its many services, drug and alcohol abuse counseling.
4. Each employee or student is required to inform the Office of Student Services at the college, in writing, within five (5) days after he or she is convicted of violation of any federal, state, or local criminal drug or alcoholic beverage control statute where such violation occurred while in the college workplace, on college premises, or as part of any college-sponsored activity. A conviction means a plea of or a finding of guilt (including a plea of *nolo contendere*) and the imposition of a judgment by a judge sitting with or without a jury in any federal or state court. As a condition of further employment on any federal government grant, the law requires all employees to abide by this policy.
5. The Office of Student Services must notify the U.S. governmental agency, from which a grant was made, within the (10) days after receiving notice from the grant employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of a drug conviction. Disciplinary action against the convicted employee must be undertaken by the college within 30 days.

STATE LAWS CONCERNING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

North Carolina law makes it illegal to possess, to manufacture, to sell or deliver, to possess with intent to sell or deliver, or to traffic in controlled substances.

Under North Carolina law, the minimum age to purchase, possess, or consume any alcoholic beverage is 21 years old. Any alcohol consumption by those 18 years and younger and underage drinkers of any age consuming liquor or fortified wine is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Those 19 and 20 year-olds who drink beer or wine will be charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor. A person convicted for the first time of selling or providing alcohol to someone under 21 will receive a minimum sentence of a \$250 fine and 25 hours of community service. For a second or subsequent offense within four years, the penalty is no less than a \$500 fine and 150 hours of community service. A person convicted of aiding and abetting the sale or provision of alcohol to someone under 21 for the first time will receive a penalty of no less than a \$500 fine and 25 hours of community service. For a second or subsequent offense within four years, the sentence is no less than a \$1000 fine and 150 hours of community service. A driver may not consume any alcoholic beverages while driving. Driving after drinking with an alcohol concentration of .08 means a person is driving while impaired. No person may transport in the passenger area spirituous liquors in any container other than the manufacturer's unopened original container. Violations may result in imprisonment, fine, mandatory community service and/or loss of driving privileges. Therefore, 19-20 year-

olds who are convicted of an alcohol violation may have a criminal history that would affect them for the rest of their lives. Graduate schools, professional organizations, and employers could use such a record to reject applicants.

A record of a felony conviction may prevent a person from entering a chosen career.

FEDERAL PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

21 U.S.C. 844(a) 1st conviction: up to 1 year imprisonment and fined at least \$1,000 but not more than \$100,000 or both. After 1 prior drug conviction: At least 15 days in prison, not to exceed 2 years and fined at least \$2,500 but not more than \$250,000, or both. After 2 or more prior drug convictions: At least 90 days in prison, not to exceed 3 years and fined at least \$5,000 but not more than \$250,000 or both. Special sentencing provisions for possession of crack cocaine: Mandatory at least 5 years in prison, not to exceed 20 years and fined up to \$250,000, or both, if:

- a) 1st conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 5 grams.
- b) 2nd crack conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 3 grams.
- c) 3rd or subsequent crack conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 1 gram.

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 1 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.

21 U.S.C. 884a Civil fine of up to \$10,000

21 U.S.C. 853a Denial of Federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses, up to 1 year for first offense, up to 5 years for second and subsequent offenses.

8 U.S.C. 922(g) Ineligible to receive or purchase a firearm. Miscellaneous Revocation of certain Federal licenses and benefits, e.g. pilot licenses, public housing tenancy, etc., are vested within the authorities of individual Federal agencies.

HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND THE ABUSE OF ALCOHOL

Drugs: Currently, the following drugs are prevalent in North Carolina. This is not an exhaustive list but rather those most commonly found. Included is a description of the physical and psychological effects of these drugs, as well as some of the hazards related to their use.

1. **Alcohol** is a depressant. Small amounts produce a short-term “lift” that tends to relax inhibitions, increase sociability, and decrease judgment and perception. In larger amounts, it increases depression and anxiety, resulting in confusion or stupor. Death can result as a consequence of respiratory paralysis. Alcohol has both physical and psychological addictive properties.
2. **Marijuana** is considered a mild hallucinogen and is usually smoked. The effects include loss of short-term memory, possible infertility in males, and lack of motivation. Marijuana has more cancer causing chemicals than tobacco smoke. Marijuana is a factor in causing lung cancer. In fact, one marijuana cigarette is 30 times more toxic than a simple cigarette.
3. **Cocaine/Crack** is a stimulant that reportedly produces a feeling of confidence, grandiosity, and power. Withdrawal from even occasional use produces extreme depression and sometimes paranoia. This drug appears to be extremely addictive, both physically and psychologically.
4. **Designer Drugs** (MDA, MDM, Ecstasy, Ice, and Crank) are synthetically produced chemicals that are classified as amphetamine-hallucinogens. The principal danger of these drugs is the lack of consistency from batch to batch. Harmful effects have included paralysis, Parkinson’s disease, and, in some instances, death. Another danger is the cutting of the chemical with other potentially lethal substances. In its pure form, it can be 50-100 times more potent than heroin.
5. **LSD & Mushrooms** are powerful hallucinogens. Mushrooms are the natural hallucinogen, usually imported from the Western U.S. They produce strong visual and/or auditory hallucinations, loss of normal perception, and have been linked to psychosis, chromosomal damage, and flashbacks.
6. **Anabolic Steroids** when combined with exercise, produce a marked increase in strength and muscle mass. Extended use will lead to kidney and liver dysfunction, sterility, and cardiac arrest. Recent research indicates steroids are addictive.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

1. A number of private treatment facilities, agencies, and therapists are available. For a complete list of treatment options and help in determining the most appropriate action, contact a Student Services Counselor at 910.879.5500.
2. Another resource is the Federal Government Hotline: 1.800.662.HELP. This is the Drug Abuse Information and Treatment Referral Line where individuals can get information and referrals to appropriate treatment facilities.
3. Educational activities and information are provided for students and employees to stress prevention. Student and college personnel participation is encouraged.