Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Annual Awareness and Prevention Program Notice to Students

A&M-Commerce is committed to a campus-wide plan to educate students and employees about alcohol and drug issues, discourage the irresponsible use of alcoholic beverages, and prohibit the unlawful use, possession or distribution of controlled substances. The University will act to ensure compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, System policies, and University rules and procedures dealing with controlled substances, illicit drugs, and the use of alcohol. This document is distributed annually in compliance with 34 C.F.R. § 86.100.

Definitions

Alcohol abuse is the excessive use of alcohol in a manner that interferes with:

- Physical or psychological functioning,
- Social adaptation,
- Educational performance, or
- Occupational functioning

Controlled substances include all prescription drugs, as well as those substance for which there is no generally accepted medicinal use (e.g., heroin, LSD, marijuana, etc.) and that possesses a chemical structure similar to that of a controlled substance (e.g. designer drugs).

Illicit drugs are:

(a) Any drugs or chemical substances, the use, sale or possession of which is illegal under any state or federal law, or

(b) Drugs that can be legally obtained but have not been obtained legally.

The term includes prescribed drugs not legally obtained and prescribed drugs not being used for prescribed purposes.

Standards of Conduct

As a student of A&M-Commerce, you must abide by state and federal laws on controlled substances, illicit drugs, and use of alcohol. Standards of conduct strictly prohibit the manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of controlled substances, illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia on University property or at University-sponsored activities. Individuals may use prescription medications that are medically necessary and prescribed in their name by a licensed physician.

The University prohibits the use or possession of alcoholic beverages on campus by any individual under the age of 21. Failure to comply with this rule violates state law and the rules governing student conduct and will subject the individual to disciplinary action.

Students of lawful age under Texas Statutes may possess and/or consume alcoholic beverages in the privacy of their rooms or apartments in campus residence facilities. However, residence hall occupants and their guests must comply with state and local statutes concerning possession, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages. Any use of alcoholic beverages should be in moderation; therefore any bulk quantities of alcohol (kegs, cases, party balls, etc.) are not allowed on campus or in residence facilities. Loud or disruptive behavior, interference with the cleanliness of residence facilities, or drinking habits that are harmful to the health or education of an individual or those around them are reasons for appropriate disciplinary action by the University.

Although students of lawful age may possess and consume alcoholic beverages in the privacy of their rooms or apartments, all alcoholic beverages transported through public areas on the University grounds and in residence facilities must be unopened and concealed. All members of the University community are expected to abide by state and federal laws pertaining to controlled substances and illicit drugs.

Texas A&M System Sanctions

The A&M System's Drug and Alcohol Abuse policy 34.02 is established to help members maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students and employees, to ensure compliance with the applicable law and require the adaptation and implementation of a program to help prevent the use of illicit drugs and alcohol abuse by students and employees.

University Sanctions

Students suspected or found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct for alcohol or drug violations will be notified to appear for a hearing with a designated administrator in the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Procedures for hearings are outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. A student found responsible for violating the code of conduct will be subject to sanctions appropriate with the offenses and any aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Disciplinary actions in cases involving alcohol and drug-related violations result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University and referral for prosecution. Any disciplinary action imposed by the University may precede and be in addition to any penalty imposed by an off-campus authority.

This document is a summary of System Policy 34.02, Drug and Alcohol Abuse. It does not include the complete policy or detailed Information on applicable local, state or federal law. In case of any discrepancy between this brochure and policy or law, the policy or law will govern. Detailed information on health risks is available from accredited health care providers.

Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention Programs

Students will be advised of available alcohol and drug counseling at the University Counseling Center and/or referred to a community organization. The University Counseling Center provides assistance and referral to appropriate community agencies. Advisors and faculty members have the responsibility to supervise student activities on all trips. Faculty members should inform students that actions violating state laws, local regulations, and University rules regarding alcohol and drugs will not be permitted on any university trip. Students who violate these guidelines regarding alcohol and drug use on field trips will be subject to disciplinary action.

The University will use both formal and informal channels to 1) disseminate information describing patters of addiction and the physical, mental, and emotional consequences that result from the abuse of alcohol and controlled/illegal substances, 2) distribute information that describes and encourages the use of counseling and treatment modalities available to both students and employees in the local and regional area, and 3) make available to the campus population referrals to local treatment centers and counseling programs. Referrals for students will be made within a supportive, confidential, and non-punitive environment under the auspices of the University Counseling Center.

Health Risks

Alcohol abuse can lead to alcoholism, premature death through overdose and complications involving the brain, heart, liver, and many other body organs. Alcohol abuse is a prime contributor to suicide, homicide, motor vehicle deaths, and other accidental causes of death. Alcohol abuse interferes with psychological functions, causes interpersonal difficulties, and is involved in many cases of child abuse. Alcohol abuse also disrupts occupational effectiveness and may cause legal and financial problems.

The abuse of illicit drugs may result in other health problems such as drug addiction, death by overdose, death from withdrawal, seizure, heart problems, infections (including HIV/AIDS), liver disease and brain dysfunction. Additional effects include occupational, social, and family problems as well as a reduction in motivation. Alcohol and/or drug use by a pregnant woman may cause additional health complications in her unborn child.

Resources

If you have an alcohol or other drug abuse problem, you may want to seek information from one of the local resources listed in the box below:

Campus Resources

Counseling Center	903-886-5145
Human Resources	903-886-5880
Student Health Services	903-886-5853
Residence Life	903-886-5797
UPD	903-886-5868

Community Resources

Glen Oaks Hospital (Greenville):
903-454-6000 or
1-800-443-1109

Glen Oaks Behavioral Healthcare (Dallas):
972-770-0818 or
972-991-9505

SAMSHA Hotline Number:
1-800-662-4357

Lakes Regional Substance Abuse Treatment:
1-903-455-3987

North Texas Behavioral Health Association:
1-877-653-6383

Other community services include therapists, counselors, treatment centers and support groups. Community hospitals provide emergency care for drug or alcohol medical problems. The Texas Department of State Health Services Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services agency can provide information on laws and services regarding drug and alcohol abuse:
http://www.tcada.state.tx.us

For more information, contact:
Student Rights and Responsibilities
Halladay Student Services Building, Room 201
903-886-5195

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