Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

Alcohol and Drug Policy

William Robinson, President

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Supersedes: March 22, 2013
Applicable Department(s)
Primary/Owner: EX
Secondary: ALL

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology Alcohol and Drug Policy

Section I: Persons subject to this Policy

All students, faculty and staff employees of Pennsylvania Institute of Technology ("P.I.T." or the "College") are covered by this policy.

Section II: Coverage of this Policy

This Policy is issued in conformance with federal law and covers five (5) mandatory topics: Standards of Conduct for Students, Faculty and Staff Employees; College Sanctions for Violating the Policy; Legal Sanctions for Illicit Drug and Alcohol Violations; Available Drug and Alcohol Counseling Programs; and a description of the Health Risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and alcohol.

Section III: Standards Of Conduct

P.I.T. prohibits the unlawful, possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by any of its students, faculty or staff employees on the College's Campus or its other locations or as part of any of the College's activities.

Section IV: College Sanctions for Violating this Policy

Any student or employee who violates this Policy or applicable law may be subject to disciplinary sanctions and/or referral for prosecution. Disciplinary sanctions for students range from a disciplinary warning to expulsion as determined by the College. The severity of the sanctions will depend, in part, on whether there have been repeated violations and on the seriousness of the misconduct. Employees found to be in violation of this Policy or applicable law will be subject to College disciplinary procedures which may impose sanctions up to and including termination from employment and/or referral for prosecution. The College also supports enforcement, by applicable law enforcement agencies, of all local, state and federal laws.

Section V: Legal Sanctions for Illicit Drug and Alcohol Violations

The following is a brief review of the legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol:

A. Drugs

1. The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, 35 Pa. C.S.A. 780-101 et seq., sets up five schedules of controlled substances based on dangerousness and medical uses. It prohibits the manufacture, distribution, sale or acquisition by misrepresentation or forgery of controlled substances except in accordance with the Act as well as the knowing possession of controlled substances unlawfully acquired. Penalties for first-time violators of the Act range from thirty days imprisonment, $500 fine, or both for possession or distribution of a small amount of marijuana or hashish, not for sale, to fifteen years or $250,000 or both for the manufacture or delivery of a Schedule I or II narcotic. A person over eighteen years of age who is convicted for violating The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, shall be sentenced to a minimum of at least one year total confinement if the delivery or possession with intent to deliver of the controlled substance was to a minor. If the offense is committed within 1,000 feet of the real property on which a college is located, the person shall be sentenced to an additional minimum sentence of at least two years total confinement.

2. The Pharmacy Act of 1961, 63 Pa. C.S.A. 390-8 makes it unlawful to procure or attempt to procure drugs by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation or subterfuge or by forgery or alteration of a prescription. The first offense is a misdemeanor, with a maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment, a $5,000 fine, or both.

3. The Vehicle Code, 75 PA, C.S.A. 3101 et seq., which was amended effective July 1, 1977, prohibits driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, or both, if the driver thereby is rendered incapable of safe driving. A police officer is empowered to arrest without a warrant any person whom he or she has probable cause to believe has committed a violation, even though the officer may not have been present when the violation was committed. A person so arrested is deemed to have consented to a test of breath or blood for the purpose of determining alcoholic content, and if a violation is found it carries the penalties of a misdemeanor of the second degree, which includes imprisonment for a maximum of thirty days.

4. The Federal drug laws, The Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 801 et seq., are similar to the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act, but contain, for the most part, more severe penalties. Schedules of controlled substance are established, and it is made unlawful knowingly or intentionally to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess with intent to distribute or dispense a controlled substance. If the quantity of controlled substance is large (e.g. 1,000 kg of a mixture or substance containing marijuana), the maximum penalties are life imprisonment, a $4,000,000 fine, or both. Lesser quantities of controlled substance (e.g. 100 kg of a mixture or substance containing marijuana) result in maximum penalties of life imprisonment, a $2,000,000 fine, or

both. The distribution of small amounts of marijuana for no remuneration or simple possession of a controlled substance carries a maximum of one year's imprisonment, a $5,000 fine, or both, with the penalties for the second offense doubling. Probation without conviction is possible for first offenders. Distribution to persons under the age of twenty-one by persons eighteen or older carries double or triple penalties. Double penalties also apply to the distribution or manufacture of a controlled substance in or on or within 1,000 feet of the property of a school or college.

5. Students who have been convicted under state or federal law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance, are ineligible for federal student aid for specific periods (ranging from one year to an indefinite period depending on the nature of the offense and whether the student is a repeat offender.)

B. Alcohol

The Pennsylvania Liquor Code, 47 Pa., C.S.A., 1-101 et seq., controls the possession and sale of alcoholic beverages within the Commonwealth. The Code as well as portions of the Pennsylvania Statutes pertaining to crimes and offenses involving minors, 18 Pa., C.S.A. 6307 et seq., provide the following:

1 . It is a summary offense for a person under the age of twenty-one to attempt to purchase, consume, possess or knowingly and intentionally transport any liquor or malt or brewed beverages. Penalty for a first offense is suspension of driving privileges for 90 days, a fine up to $300 and imprisonment for up to 90 days; for a second offense, suspension of driving privileges for one year, a fine up to $500, and imprisonment for up to one year; for subsequent offense, suspension of driving privileges for two years, a fine up to $500 and imprisonment for up to one year. Multiple sentences involving suspension of driving privileges must be served consecutively.

2. It is a crime intentionally and knowingly to sell or intentionally and knowingly to furnish or to purchase with the intent to sell or furnish, any liquor or malt or brewed beverages to any minor (under the age of twenty-one). "Furnish" means to supply, give or provide to, or allow a minor to possess on premises or property owned or controlled by the person charged. Penalty for a first violation is $1,000; $2,500 for each subsequent violation; imprisonment for up to one year for any violation.

3. It is a crime for any person under twenty-one years of age to possess an identification card falsely identifying that person as being twenty-one years of age or older, or to obtain or attempt to obtain liquor or malt or brewed beverages by using a false identification card. Penalties are stated in (2) above.

4.It is a crime intentionally, knowingly or recklessly to manufacture, make, alter, sell or attempt to sell an identification card falsely

representing the identity, birth date, or age of another. Minimum fine is $1,000 for first violation; $2,500 for subsequent violations; imprisonment for up to one year for any violation.

5. It is a crime to misrepresent one's age knowingly and falsely to obtain liquor or malt or brewed beverages. Penalties are as stated in (1) above.

6. It is a crime knowingly, willfully and falsely to represent that another is of legal age to obtain liquor or malt or brewed beverages. Penalty is a minimum fine of $300 and imprisonment for up to one year.

7. It is a crime to hire, request or induce any minor to purchase liquor or malt or beverages. Penalty is a minimum fine of $300 and imprisonment for up to one year.

8. Sales without a license or purchases from an unlicensed source of liquor or malt or brewed beverages are prohibited.

9. It is unlawful to possess or transport liquor or alcohol within the Commonwealth unless it has been purchased from a State Store or in accordance with Liquor Control Board regulations. The College will cooperate with the appropriate law enforcement authorities for violations of any of the above-mentioned laws by an employee in the workplace or student.

10. The use in any advertisement of alcoholic beverages of any subject matter, language or slogan directed to minors to promote consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

11. No advertisement of alcoholic beverages shall be permitted, either directly or indirectly, in any booklet, program, book, yearbook, magazine, newspaper, periodical, brochure, circular, or other similar publication, published by, for, or on behalf of any educational institution.

Section VI: Health Risks Associated with the Use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol

Below is a summary of health risks associated with alcohol abuse and use of specific drugs from The National Institute of Drug Abuse. For more information go to: www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/alcohol

Alcohol. Drinking too much – on a single occasion or over time – can take a serious toll on your health. Here's how alcohol can affect your body:

Brain:
Alcohol interferes with the brain's communication pathways, and can affect the way the brain looks and works. These disruptions can change mood and behavior, and make it harder to think clearly and move with coordination.

Heart:
Drinking a lot over a long time or too much on a single occasion can damage the heart, causing problems including:

- Cardiomyopathy – Stretching and drooping of heart muscle
- Arrhythmias – Irregular heart beat
- Stroke
- High blood pressure

Liver:
Heavy drinking takes a toll on the liver, and can lead to a variety of problems and liver inflammations including:

- Steatosis, or fatty liver
- Alcoholic hepatitis
- Fibrosis
- Cirrhosis

Prescription Opiods. Opioid misuse can cause slowed breathing, which can cause hypoxia, a condition that results when too little oxygen reaches the brain. Hypoxia can have short- and long-term psychological and neurological effects, including coma, permanent brain damage, or death. Researchers are also investigating the long-term effects of opioid addiction on the brain, including whether damage can be reversed. Older adults are at higher risk of accidental misuse or abuse because they typically have multiple prescriptions and chronic diseases, increasing the risk of drug-drug and drug-disease interactions, as well as a slowed metabolism that affects the breakdown of drugs. Sharing drug injection equipment and having impaired judgment from drug use can increase the risk of contracting infectious diseases such as HIV and from unprotected sex.

Cannabis (Marijuana, Hashish). The use of marijuana may impair or reduce short- term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, reduce coordination and energy level, affects brain development, causes mental health problems, chronic cough, and frequent respiratory infections. Frequent users often have a lowered immune system and an increased risk of lung cancer. The active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is stored in the fatty tissues of the brain and reproductive system for a minimum of 28 to 30 days.

Cocaine. Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant drug made from the leaves of the coca plant native to South America. Health effects of cocaine use include: constricted blood vessels, dilated pupils, nausea, raised body temperature and blood pressure, fast or irregular heartbeat, tremors and muscle twitches, and restlessness.

Hallucinogens. Hallucinogens and dissociative drugs—which have street names like acid, angel dust, and vitamin K—distort the way a user perceives time, motion, colors, sounds, and self. These drugs can disrupt a person's ability to think and communicate rationally, or even to recognize reality, sometimes resulting in bizarre or dangerous behavior. Hallucinogens such as LSD, psilocybin, peyote, DMT, and ayahuasca cause emotions to swing wildly and real-world sensations to appear unreal, sometimes frightening. Dissociative drugs like PCP, ketamine, dextromethorphan, and *Salvia divinorum* may make a user feel out of control and disconnected from their body and environment.

In addition to their short-term effects on perception and mood, hallucinogenic drugs are associated with psychotic-like episodes that can occur long after a person has taken the drug, and dissociative drugs can cause respiratory depression, heart rate abnormalities, and a withdrawal syndrome.

Heroin. Heroin is an opiate drug that causes the body to have diminished pain reactions. Heroin is physically addictive. This and other opiate drugs are respiratory depressants; their use can be associated with coma and death. Short term effect are: Euphoria; dry mouth; itching; nausea; vomiting; analgesia; slowed breathing and heart rate. Long term effects are: Collapsed veins; abscesses (swollen tissue with pus); infection of the lining and valves in the heart; constipation and stomach cramps; liver or kidney disease; pneumonia.

Section VII: Description of drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation or re-entry programs that are available to Students, Faculty and Staff Employees

Drug and Alcohol Treatment for Students. The College recommends that students carefully review their personal insurance for available drug and alcohol programs and follow any requirements in their insurance so as not to lose coverage. For those students who do not have counseling services available through their personal insurance, P.I.T. recommends calling the Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health at 610-713-2365 or the Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services at 610-344-6620 for a referral to an appropriate counseling organization.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment for Employees. The College recommends that faculty and staff carefully review their personal insurance for available drug and alcohol programs and follow any requirements in their insurance so as not to lose coverage.

For those full-time faculty and full-time staff employees who elected to participate in and pay for the College's Health Insurance Programs, alcohol and drug counseling is available subject to the particular requirements of the health care option originally selected. For all other faculty and staff who do not maintain their own personal insurance coverage or those not eligible for the above services, P.I.T. recommends calling the Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health at 610-713-2365 or the Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services at 610-344-6620 for a referral to an appropriate counseling organization.

The College also provides assistance to full-time faculty and full-time staff through an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP may be contacted at: 1-800-854-1446 (English); 1-877-858-2147 (Spanish); 1-800-999-3004 TTY/TDD.