

## **INSTITUTIONAL POLICY: GA-08**

**CATEGORY:** General Administration

**SUBJECT:** Alcohol and Drugs

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 6, 1990

**LAST REVISION DATE:** December 14, 2005

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### **I. THE POLICY**

Alcoholic beverages may not be served or consumed on the WVSOM campus and the illegal use or abuse of drugs will not be tolerated.

### **II. INTRODUCTION**

This policy was originally developed by the WVSOM Alcohol and Drug Committee. Although the essence of the policy has not changed, some amendments are necessary to recognize the changes in state law and governmental organization that have occurred since the policy's original adoption. The purpose of this policy is to serve as a guide for the campus community in the use and the prevention of abuse of controlled substances. Alcohol abuse or the use of illegal drugs is incompatible with the educational mission of WVSOM. The role of the School in pursuit, creation and dissemination of knowledge requires that all members of the WVSOM community function at their optimum level. The illegal use or abuse of drugs and/or alcohol has a clear and adverse effect on the educational environment. Accordingly, WVSOM is committed to promoting the responsible use of alcohol and to preventing the use of illegal drugs.

Consistent with its mission, WVSOM will utilize educational strategies as the primary approach to substance abuse. However, all members of the school community should know that any violations of local, state or federal laws will be subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law and of school policy.

Those persons who are currently involved in the abuse of alcohol or the use of illegal drugs and who seek assistance in overcoming these addictions through a viable and recognized treatment program will be supported in these efforts.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

Alcoholic beverages include those beverages defined under the State of West Virginia's Alcohol Beverage Control Act, including "nonintoxicating beer" and wine and other alcoholic liquors as stated in § 60-1-5 of the West Virginia Code. In plain language, this

term includes beer containing any amount of alcohol, wine, wine coolers and all other liquors.

Illegal drugs include those substances defined under Schedules I, II and III of the West Virginia Uniform Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I includes substances that have high potential for abuse and no accepted medical use in the United States or lacks accepted safety for use in treatment under medical supervision, that is, any opiates, opiate derivatives and hallucinogens such as marijuana and LSD (See § 60A-2-204). Schedule II includes substances with a high potential for abuse but which may have a recognized medical use with severe restrictions, that is, opium and opium extracts, stimulants and depressants and their immediate precursors (See § 60A-2-206); however, this policy does not apply if a person is using the drug under a physician's direction and in accord with the physician's instructions. Schedule III includes substances that have currently accepted medical use but which have potential for abuse which may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence, that is, certain other stimulants, depressants, human growth hormones or anabolic steroids and certain narcotic drugs (See § 60A-2-208).

#### IV. ALCOHOL

West Virginia state law prohibits the purchase of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21. It also prohibits any person not related by blood or marriage from providing alcoholic beverages to persons under age 21. In order to stand consistent with this statute, the School is compelled to carefully monitor and control the use of legal alcoholic beverages by organizations under the support of WVSOM. All organizations affiliated with the School must take positive action to ensure that minors are not served alcohol.

Many campus-based constituencies include persons who are legally able to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages. These include faculty, staff, students, alumni, visitors to campus, community groups, conference or workshop participants, or others here for purposes related to school functions. For these groups, the responsible use of alcohol must be the guiding principle.

##### **Functions at off-campus locations**

Many campus-affiliated organizations choose to hold social functions at off-campus locations. Student organizations planning off-campus activities at which alcoholic beverages will be served must register said activities with the Office of Student Affairs, at which time they will be given the following list of required actions which they must take to promote the responsible use of alcohol:

- Positive actions to ensure that no persons under age 21 are served alcoholic beverages.
- No social event shall include any form of drinking game.
- Alcohol should not be used as an inducement to participate in a campus event. Promotional materials for an event shall not make references to the amount of alcoholic beverages (such as number of kegs) available.
- Direct access to alcoholic beverages should be limited to those persons designated as servers.
- Alternative, non-alcoholic beverages must be available.

- Early cut-off of alcoholic beverages must be observed, preferably one hour prior to the end of the event.
- No alcohol should be served to persons who are obviously intoxicated.
- Two designated drivers must be in attendance to assure transportation if needed. The names of designated drivers must be listed on the student activities off-campus function form.

## V. ILLEGAL DRUGS

Consistent with its educational mission, the School will utilize educational strategies as the primary activity aimed at preventing drug abuse and the use of illegal drugs. A strong program focusing on drug abuse will be conducted with the intent of informing all members of the school community of the resources available to help resolve abuse problems. Those members of the school community who voluntarily seek assistance for abuse concerns or drug addiction through a recognized treatment program, either through the services of WVSOM or through community resources, will be assured that applicable standards of confidentiality will be maintained. Students who voluntarily seek such treatment may be eligible for a medical withdrawal from the School without academic penalty.

Members of the WVSOM community are responsible for knowing and complying with provisions of West Virginia law that define as crimes the possession, sale, delivery or manufacture of those drugs known as “controlled substances”. Any member of the School community who violates that law is subject both to prosecution and punishment by civil authorities and by the School.

Sanctions will be imposed by the School consistent with procedural safeguards applicable to disciplinary actions against the involved parties. Penalties imposed may range from written warnings with probationary status to expulsions from enrollment and termination of employment.

## VI. GOVERNING POLICIES FOR SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

### A. Students

The WVSOM Student Code of Conduct, as administered by the School Judicial System, governs the procedures to be followed in case of violation of this policy by enrolled students. See Institutional Policy ST-1.

### B. Faculty

Violations of school policy and/or state laws committed by members of the School faculty shall be adjudicated within the guidelines of Policy Bulletin 36, as delegated by the Higher Education Policy Commission.

### C. Staff and Administrative Personnel

Violations of school policy and/or state laws committed by members of the School staff or administration shall be subject to sanctions as outlined above. Procedures for adjudicating such violations shall be consistent with Policy Bulletin 52, as delegated by

the Higher Education Policy Commission, or with Section 10 of the Classified Employees Handbook, as applicable.

D. Alumni and Other Groups

Alumni of the School, when gathered at an event sponsored, sanctioned, organized or affiliated by the School should be subject to the same standards of behavior as students and staff of the institution. The School should make every effort to ensure compliance with these guidelines. Affiliated groups, including visitors to campus, participants in seminars or conferences on campus, or other persons benefiting from School affairs or services will also be expected to conform to these standards.