



# Drug and Alcohol Policy Consent Form

## Introduction

Attitudes and behaviors regarding the use of drugs and alcohol have long been a topic of controversy in the Christian community. Opinions especially regarding the consumption of alcohol range from complete abstinence to responsible use within the limits established by law.

ACU has a responsibility to come under the authority of Scripture as well as state and federal law when it comes to this topic. Therefore, the following policy is grounded and guided by biblical principles and meets the requirements of the federal Drug-Free Workplace Act while addressing the medical issues at stake when using drugs or alcohol.

## A Biblical Perspective

Clearly the Word of God condemns drunkenness. "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit." (Eph 5:18 ESV) See also: Isa 5:11-12, Prov 20:1, Gal 5:19-21, 1 Pet 4:3.

As followers of Christ we believe, as stated in Rom 14:13, that it is wrong to put a stumbling block in another believer's way. No believer should exercise his freedom in Christ in a manner that is a detriment to another believer. Rom 14:15 states, "For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love." (ESV)

According to Paul, "for freedom Christ has set us free." (Gal 5:1a ESV) Believers are free, therefore, either to choose abstinence or moderation in accordance with their liberty in Christ.

## Legal Issues

### *Federal*

The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and its amendment in 1989, the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Regulations Part 86, the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Regulations (Education Department General Administrative Regulations [EDGAR]), requires that, as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, an institution of higher education (IHE) must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees.

In order to be able to certify its compliance with the regulations, an IHE must adopt and implement a drug prevention program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by all students and employees both on school premises and as part of any of its activities.

### *State and Local*

In the state of Arizona, possession or use of alcohol as a beverage by an individual under the age of 21 is illegal. In the State of Arizona, possession, use, or selling of illegal drugs in any amount is a felony.

### **Medical Concerns**

Alcohol and other drugs can cause serious harm to users and other individuals associated with users. Alcohol and drugs are absorbed into the bloodstream and transmitted to virtually all parts of the body. Even moderate doses can reduce physical coordination and mental alertness, making certain activities such as sports and operating a motor vehicle dangerous. Larger doses of alcohol and drugs can cause staggering, slurred speech, double vision, sudden mood swings, and unconsciousness.

A binge or long-term heavy drinking as well as drug abuse may result in respiratory arrest and death, and increases one's risk of developing liver and heart disease, circulatory problems, peptic ulcers, various forms of cancer, irreversible brain damage, and psychological and/or physical addiction.

In pregnant women, alcohol and drug usage can result in short term problems at birth and in permanent deformities and disabilities in the baby.

### **Support System**

The Counseling Center is available for drug and alcohol abuse counseling and can help locate competent professional help for addiction or other related problems incurred with the use of drugs and alcohol. All matters are considered confidential.

### **Policy**

In order to comply with state and federal regulations and because of our commitment to abide by our standards as a Christian institution:

1) All ACU employees are strictly prohibited from possession, manufacture, use, and/or distribution of illegal *drugs*. Possession of or being under the influence of any type of illegal substance will be grounds for dismissal and will be turned over to the authorities for further action.

2) All ACU employees are strictly prohibited from possession, use, and/or distribution of *alcohol* on property owned or used by the university, or serving alcohol as part of any university sponsored activity, whether on or off campus. Additionally, employees should use discretion with regard to the use of alcohol as a representative of ACU, especially when ACU students are present.

Further details relating to a Drug-Free Workplace can be found in the student, staff and faculty handbooks. Arizona Christian University reserves the right to revise or amend this policy without prior public or private notification.

### **Employee Consent**

I agree to abide by the ACU Drug and Alcohol Policy.

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Date

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Signature