

STUDENT DRUG, ALCOHOL, & TOBACCO POLICY

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/DRUGS

As representatives of Arizona Christian University, students are expected to strive to “live a life worthy of the Lord” and to “please him in every way” (Col. 1:10a NIV).

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Acts Amendments of 1987, Public Law 101-226, requires that, as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any Federal Program, an institution of higher education 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. This Federal mandate coincides with the strong desire of the Arizona Christian University administration to maintain a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free campus.

All ACU students 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 suspension or expulsion and will be turned over to the authorities for further action.

All ACU students are strictly prohibited from possession, use, and/or distribution of alcohol and tobacco (including but not limited to chewing tobacco, vapor, and/or hookah) on property owned or used by the University, or serving alcohol or tobacco as part of any University sponsored activity or function (including mission trips, music recitals, or athletic events) whether on or off campus.

Consuming, possessing, holding for others, or purchasing alcohol or drugs will constitute as a violation of the alcohol/drug policy. Any student convicted of a DUI offense may face University disciplinary action. Any student 21 or over who purchases, serves, or supplies alcohol to a minor will be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy applies to students living in the residence hall and off campus housing as well. If alcohol is found in a residence hall room, the residents of that room, and those present, are all held responsible. The potential sanctions are decided by the Council for Student Care (CSC) and the Head of Student Services. Should a student be found to be in violation of the alcohol policy, on- or off-campus, he/she might expect to receive (but is not limited to) the following consequences:

ALCOHOL:

First Offense:

- \$250 fine
- Two professional counseling sessions within one month of the offense

*Student athletes may receive additional consequences administered by the Athletic Department

Second Offense:

The student will meet with the Council for Student Care. The Council for Student Care will have flexibility based on the situation to administer any or all of the following sanctions. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Accountability hours
- Financial fine (starting at \$250)
- Loss of privileges
- Additional counseling evaluation sessions
- Eviction or relocation from University owned and operated housing
- Temporary suspension
- Disciplinary Probation

*Student athletes may receive additional consequences administered by the Athletic Department

Should the student fail to comply, he/she may be suspended for the remainder of the semester.

Third Offense:

- Student will be subject to suspension or expulsion from the University.

DRUGS

The University exercises its right to require drug testing of students suspected of drug use. Searches of students, their rooms, possessions, and automobiles will be conducted if reasonable cause exists to suspect possession of illegal drugs

or alcohol. Refusal of a drug screen will be considered grounds for suspension. In the event a drug test is required, the student will be charged for this screening process.

Possession of drugs or any drug paraphernalia will result in severe disciplinary measures, including the possibility of suspension. Possession of any illicit drugs for personal use or for resale will result in immediate suspension from the University.

TOBACCO USAGE POLICY

Arizona Christian University is a tobacco free campus and the use of tobacco products is not permitted anywhere on campus. With the realization that the use of tobacco is harmful to the health of an individual, as well as to the passive bystander exposed to second hand smoke, Arizona Christian University does not allow the use of tobacco in any form (including but not limited to cigarettes, chewing tobacco, hookah, and/or vapor) on campus or while participating in any school related functions or activities. Due to the fire hazard of smoking, a \$250 fine will be assessed for smoking inside University facilities or on University property.

The following judicial procedures will be followed for those who choose to disrespect the Arizona Christian University community and use tobacco in any form:

First Offense:

- Verbal and written warning.

Second Offense:

The student will meet with the Council for Student Care. The Council for Student Care will have flexibility based on the situation to administer any or all of the following sanctions. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Accountability hours
- Financial fine (starting at \$250)
- Loss of privileges
- Additional counseling evaluation sessions
- Eviction or relocation from University owned and operated housing
- Temporary suspension
- Disciplinary Probation

*Student athletes may receive additional consequences administered by the Athletic Department
Should the student fail to comply, he/she may be suspended for the remainder of the semester.

Third Offense:

- Student will be subject to suspension or expulsion from the University.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Although Arizona state law permits the use of medical marijuana, i.e., use by persons possessing lawfully issued medical marijuana cards; federal laws prohibit marijuana use, possession, and/or cultivation at educational institutions and on the premises of other recipients of federal funds. The use, possession, or cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes is therefore not allowed in any Arizona Christian University housing or any other Arizona Christian University property; nor is it allowed at any University sponsored event or activity on or off campus.

EMPLOYEE DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

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.

As a condition of employment, employees will notify their immediate supervisor of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation no later than five days after such conviction.