

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Information

It is the goal of Grand Canyon University to provide a drug-free environment for all university students and employees. Under the Drug-Free Workplace Act and the Drug-Free Communities Act, the university must maintain a drug-free campus and workplace or risk the loss of financial aid assistance and grants. The Drug-Free Campus and Workplace Policy is required by law to make you aware of the dangers of drugs and alcohol in the workplace, along with drug and alcohol counseling services that may be available.

All faculty and staff are expected and required to report to work on time and in an appropriate physical and mental condition for work. The university is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy and secure work environment, free of unauthorized drugs and alcohol.

The sale, offer to sell, purchase, use, transfer, possession and/or manufacture of illegal drugs including marijuana (medical or otherwise) and alcohol are strictly prohibited on university premises, including parking lots, cafeterias and other non-work areas. Employees who report to work impaired by illegal drugs (or their metabolites), marijuana (including for medical use) or alcohol are in violation of this policy. Impairment means symptoms that include diminished capacity of speech, walking, standing, physical dexterity, agility, coordination, actions and movement, as well as an employee's demeanor, appearance, clothing, body odor, irrational or unusual behavior, negligence or carelessness in operation equipment or machinery, disregard for the safety of the employees or others, involvement in an accident that results in serious damage to equipment or property, any injury to the employee or others or other symptoms causing a reasonable suspicion of the use of drugs or alcohol.

Employees who use over-the-counter and prescribed medications are expected to remain fit for duty. All such medications should be used in accordance with instructions. Whenever there are prescribed medications, employees should discuss their job functions with their physician and verify that the medications will not threaten safety.

Employees may not possess, consume or be under the influence of alcohol while working, participating in GCU events or present on university premises (including parking lots, cafeterias and other non-work areas), unless pre-authorized by senior management.

Any employee who is convicted of a criminal drug violation in the workplace must notify Human Resources within five calendar days of the conviction. The university will take appropriate action within 30 days of notification. Failure to inform the university subjects the employee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Health Risks

There are definite health risks associated with the use of alcohol and illegal substances. Alcohol or any other drug used in excess over time can cause illness, disability and death. The health consequences of substance abuse may be immediate and unpredictable, such as cardiac arrest with cocaine use, or more subtle and long-term, such as liver deterioration associated with the prolonged use of alcohol. In addition to health-related problems, other concerns relating to substance abuse include the following:

- Regular users of alcohol and other drugs often have erratic life styles which interfere with sleep, nutrition and exercise.
- Alcohol and substance use and abuse may lead to financial difficulties, domestic violence, deterioration of the family structure, motor vehicle accident injuries and reduced job performance.
- Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence.

Drug & Alcohol Counseling

More information about alcohol and drugs and the risks they pose to health is available in the GCU Cooke Health Center. Outside counseling services and support groups are available. Services are available through the university benefits program to assist employees who are experiencing problems with chemical dependency. Individuals can speak with their own physician or contact the university's insurance carrier to access those resources. Other community resources may be found online at Community Information and Referral (cir.org) or Alcoholics Anonymous (aa.org).

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Drug & Alcohol Testing

The use, possession, sale, transfer, manufacture, distribution and dispensation of alcohol and illegal drugs and in certain circumstances, even the use of legal drugs in the workplace can pose unacceptable risks to employees, facilities and property and is strictly prohibited. Employees will be subject to reasonable suspicion drug testing while on duty or on the property of Grand Canyon University.

“Illegal drugs” means any drug that:

1. is not legally obtainable; or
2. is legally obtainable, but is not legally obtained.

The term includes all controlled substances as defined in Schedules I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act 21 U.S.C § 812 and as further defined by regulation at 21 C.F.R. §§ 1308.11 through 1308.15. It also includes prescription drugs that are not being used for prescribed purposes, or in prescribed amounts, or by the person to whom it is prescribed. While state law may allow the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, marijuana use remains illegal under federal law and its use resulting in impairment while on duty is prohibited by university policy.

For the purposes of this policy, the following is a non-exhaustive list of illegal drugs that are prohibited:

- Amphetamines
- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepines
- Cannabinoids
- Cocaine
- Methadone
- Opiates
- Phencyclidine (PCP)
- Propoxyphene

“Legal drugs” means prescribed or over-the-counter drugs that are legally obtained by the employee and being used for the purpose(s) for which the manufacturer intended them, in prescribed amounts. When an employee intends to use a legal drug while working whose instructions for use indicate the drug may affect or impair judgment, coordination, motor skills or other senses, or may adversely affect the ability to perform job duties in a safe manner, the employee must first consult his or her health care provider, describe the duties of his or her job and report to work only if the health care provider certifies that it is safe to do so while using the drug. If the health care provider indicates the legal drug use may adversely affect the employee’s ability to work safely, the employee must notify Human Resources before working while using the legal drug so that the university may take appropriate action, which may include modified duty or a leave of absence. A legal drug is a “prohibited legal drug” when the instructions for its use indicate the drug may affect or impair judgment, coordination, motor skills or other senses, or may adversely affect the ability to perform job duties in a safe manner and the employee has failed to take the steps described in this provision. A written certification from the health care provider may be required.

The university may enforce reasonable suspicion drug testing as outlined in this policy in order to conduct university activities and to provide safe and effective service to our constituents. Therefore, the university may require that employees provide urine, blood, breath, saliva and/or other samples for drug and alcohol testing for reasonable suspicion testing. Any employee who violates this policy by refusing to be tested, falsifying or tampering with samples or testing positive for drug or alcohol use, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination.

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The university may require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing if management has a reasonable suspicion that the employee:

- Has violated university policy prohibiting the use of alcohol, illegal drugs or prohibited legal drugs while on duty, while working, while on university property or while operating university equipment, machinery or vehicles;
- Is under the influence of, or impaired by, alcohol and/or illegal drugs or prohibited legal drugs while on duty, while working, while on university property or while operating university equipment, machinery or vehicles;
- Has had or has contributed to an accident in the workplace or while on duty;
- May be affected by the use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs or prohibited legal drugs and the use may adversely affect job performance, safety or the work environment.

Should a drug test be required for reasonable suspicion, such as following an accident or inappropriate conduct, the employee may be suspended until the results of a drug test are made available to the university by the testing facility. This suspension may be with or without pay, at management's discretion. An employee whose drug or alcohol test is reported positive may contact Human Resources and obtain the written test result.

All information regarding testing for alcohol or illegal drug use or controlled substances abuse and the results of such testing, is to be held in strict confidence by all parties involved.

Entering the university's property constitutes consent to searches and inspections. If an individual is suspected of violating the drug-free workplace policy, he or she may be asked to submit to a search or inspection at any time. Searches can be conducted of lockers, wallets, purses, briefcases and lunchboxes, desks and work stations, vehicles and equipment.

Sanctions

Local, state and federal laws make illegal use of drugs and alcohol serious crimes. Conviction can lead to imprisonment, fines and assigned community service. Additionally, sanctions will be imposed on students or employees who violate the university drug and/or alcohol policies. Sanctions may include suspension or expulsion for students and, for employees, disciplinary action up to and including, immediate discharge.