

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE PREVENTION INFORMATION

1. Standards of Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions for Alcohol/Drug Offenses

Virginia Highlands Community College students and employees may not possess, use, or distribute any illegal drugs while on campus, attending a college-sponsored off-campus event, or while serving as a representative of the College at off-campus meetings. This prohibition includes alcoholic beverages, except where lawfully permitted. Furthermore, all college students and employees are expected to be unimpaired by the effects of illegal drugs or alcohol while on campus or officially representing the college off-campus. (Refer to VHCC Student Handbook and VHCC Faculty & Staff Manual, section 6.6.4.

The disciplinary procedures and penalties for student misconduct involving illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages are provided in the VHCC Student Handbook. Serious violations of the policy may lead to expulsion and criminal charges. Any employee of the college who violates the standards of conduct stated in the VHCC Faculty & Staff Manual, section 6.6.4 shall be subject to disciplinary action, including discharge and/or referral to an assistance or rehabilitation program, at the discretion of the college. In the event of apparent violations of applicable state or federal laws, employees may also face criminal charges.

2. Applicable Legal Sanctions

The possession, distribution, or use of illicit drugs at or nearby a college is a violation of state and federal laws (Virginia Drug Control Act; Federal Controlled Substances Act). It is also unlawful for any person to consume alcoholic beverages in unlicensed public places (Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Act). Reported violations will be investigated by campus police and referred to appropriate public officials for criminal prosecution as warranted. (A description of state and federal prohibitions and penalties pertaining to illicit drugs and alcohol is provided later).

3. Health Risks Associated with Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Drugs and alcohol interfere with student learning and employee performance in the workplace. Use of drugs and alcohol can also have dangerous consequences for personal health and for the safety of others. A list of controlled substances and their effects is provided later. Three of the more commonly abused drugs are highlighted below:

Alcohol impairs judgment and coordination; can cause damage to the brain, heart, liver and pancreas; increases the risk of birth defects; high doses can cause respiratory depression and death.

Marijuana has been linked to lung cancer, memory loss, slowed reaction time when driving, depression of the immune system, and complications for pregnant women.

Crack/Cocaine can cause convulsions, infection, heart attack, stroke, respiratory failure, brain seizures, psychosis, and death.

4. Counseling Services and Treatment Programs

Numerous community and state agencies, medical facilities, and private outpatient counseling/treatment programs are available to help VHCC students and employees dealing with substance abuse problems. A few examples are listed below:

Alcoholics Anonymous 276-628-4331

Highlands Community Services 276-628-5067

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Outpatient Services 276-676-2908

The Laurels 276-889-3063

Magnolia Ridge/Willow Ridge, Frontier Health 423-232-4130

Life Center of Galax 877-762-3747

State Employee Assistance Service **866-725-0602**

Students or employees may first seek advice from a college counselor regarding advice and referral for appropriate treatment. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent permitted by law. For more information, contact the Counseling Office (739-2438) or Human Resources (739-2425).

VIRGINIA LAWS PERTAINING TO THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OR DISTRIBUTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

ALCOHOL

Virginia's Alcohol Beverage Control Act (found at the [Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control](#)) contains a variety of laws governing the possession, use, and consumption of alcoholic beverages. The Act applies to the students and employees of this institution. As required by the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, the pertinent laws, including sanctions for their violations, are summarized below.

1. It is unlawful for any person under age 21 to purchase or possess any alcoholic beverage. Violation of the law exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is confinement in jail for up to twelve months and a fine up to \$2,500, either or both. Additionally, such person's Virginia driver's license may be suspended for a period of not more than one year.
2. It is unlawful for any person to sell alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21 years of age. Violation of the law exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is confinement in jail for up to twelve months and a fine up to \$2,500, either or both.
3. It is unlawful for any person to purchase alcoholic beverages for another when, at the time of the purchase, he knows or has reason to know that the person for whom the alcohol is purchased is under the legal drinking age. The criminal sanction for violation of the law is the same as #2 above.
4. It is unlawful for any person to consume alcoholic beverages in unlicensed public places. Persons violating the law, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is a fine up to \$250.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND ILLICIT DRUGS

The unlawful possession, distribution, and use of controlled substances and illicit drugs, as defined by the Virginia Drug Control Act, are prohibited in Virginia. Controlled substances are classified under the Act into "schedules," ranging from Schedule I through Schedule VI, as defined in sections 54.1-3446 through 54.1-3456 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. As required by the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the pertinent laws, including sanctions for their violation, are summarized below.

1. Possession of a controlled substance classified in Schedules I or II of the Drug Control Act, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a felony conviction for which the punishment is a term of imprisonment ranging from one to ten years, or in the discretion of the jury or the court trying the case without a jury, confinement in jail for up to twelve months and a fine up to \$2,500, either or both.

2. Possession of a controlled substance classified in Schedule III of the Drug Control Act, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is confinement in jail up to twelve months and a fine up to \$2,500, either or both.
3. Possession of a controlled substance classified in Schedule IV of the Drug Control Act, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is confinement in jail for up to six months and a fine up to \$1,000, either or both.
4. Possession of a controlled substance classified in Schedule V of the Drug Control Act, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is a fine up to \$500.
5. Possession of a controlled substance classified in Schedule VI of the Drug Control Act, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is a fine up to \$250.
6. Possession of a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II of the Drug Control Act with the intent to sell or otherwise distribute, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a felony conviction for which the punishment is imprisonment from five to forty years and a fine up to \$100,000. Upon a second conviction, the violator must be imprisoned for not less than five years but may suffer life imprisonment, and fined up to \$100,000.
7. Possession of a controlled substance classified in Schedules III, IV, or V of the Drug Control Act with the intent to sell or otherwise distribute, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is confinement in jail for up to one year and a fine up to \$2,500, either or both.
8. Possession of marijuana, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is confinement in jail for up to thirty days and a fine up to \$500, either or both. Upon a second conviction, punishment is confinement in jail for up to one year and a fine up to \$2,500, either or both.
9. Possession of less than one-half ounce of marijuana with intent to sell or otherwise distribute, upon conviction, exposes the violator to a misdemeanor conviction for which the punishment is confinement in jail for up to one year and a fine up to \$2,500, either or both. If the amount of marijuana involved is more than one-half ounce to five pounds, the crime is a felony with a sanction of imprisonment from one to ten years, or in the discretion of the jury or the court trying the case without a jury, confinement in jail for up to one year and a fine up to \$2,500, either or both. If the amount of marijuana involved is more than five pounds, the crime is a felony with a sanction of imprisonment from five to thirty years.

Title IV Funding and Drug Convictions

The Higher Education Act (HEA) has a provision related to student eligibility for Title IV financial aid for students with drug convictions that occurred while receiving federal funding. According to section 484(r) of the HEA, a student's eligibility for Federal student aid is suspended if the student is convicted, under Federal or State law, of any offense involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance. Any such suspension of eligibility begins on the date of conviction and lasts until the end of a statutorily specified period. The suspension of eligibility ranges from one year to indefinite, depending upon the number and type of convictions. A student may regain eligibility early by completing a drug rehabilitation program that meets certain statutory and regulatory requirements (including two unannounced drug tests), or if the conviction is overturned.

APPENDIX A

Federal Trafficking Penalties

CSA	PENALTY		Quantity	DRUG	Quantity	PENALTY	
	2nd Offense	1st Offense				1st Offense	2nd Offense
I And II	Not less than 10 years. Not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than life. Fine of not more than \$4 million individual, \$10 million other than individual.	Not less than 5 years. Not more than 40 years. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years. Not more than life. Fine of not more than \$2 million individual, \$5 million other than individual.	10-99 gm or 100-999 gm mixture	METHAMPHETAMINE	100 gm or more or 1 kg or more mixture	Not less than 10 years. Not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years. Not more than life. Fine of not more than \$4 million individual, \$10 million other than individual.	Not less than 20 years. Not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than life. Fine of not more than \$8 million individual, \$20 million other than individual.
			100-999 gm mixture	HEROIN	1 kg or more mixture		
			500-4.999 gm mixture	COCAINE	5 kg or more mixture		
			5-49 gm mixture	COCAINE BASE	50 gm or more mixture		
			0-99 gm or 100-999 gm mixture	PCP	100 gm or more or 1 kg or more mixture		
			1-10 gm mixture	LSD	10 gm or more mixture		
			40-399 gm mixture	FENTANYL	400 gm or more mixture		
			10-99 gm mixture	FENTANYL ANALOGUE	100 gm or more mixture		
	Drug	Quantity	First Offense		Second Offense		
	Others ²	Any	Not more than 20 years. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years, not more than life. Fine \$1 million individual, \$5 million not individual.		Not more than 30 years. If death or serious injury, life. Fine \$2 million individual, \$10 million not individual.		
III	All	Any	Not more than 5 years. Fine not more than \$250,000 individual, \$1 million not individual.		Not more than 10 years. Fine not more than \$500,000 individual, \$2 million not individual.		
IV	All	Any	Not more than 3 years. Fine not more than \$250,000 individual, \$1 million not individual.		Not more than 6 years. Fine not more than \$500,000 individual, \$2 million not individual.		
V	All	Any	Not more than 1 year. Fine not more than \$100,000 individual, \$250,000 not individual.		Not more than 2 years. Fine not more than \$200,000 individual, \$500,000 not individual.		

¹ Law as originally enacted states 100 gm. Congress requested to make technical correction to 1 kg. (See separate chart.)

² Does not include marijuana, hashish, or hash oil. (See

Federal Trafficking Penalties - Marijuana

As of November 18, 1988

Quantity	Description	First Offense	Second Offense
1,000 kg or more; or 1,000 or more plants	Marijuana Mixture containing detectable quantity*	Not less than 10 years, not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years, not more than life. Fine not more than \$4 million individual, \$10 million other than individual.	Not less than 20 years, not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than life. Fine not more than \$8 million individual, \$20 million other than individual.
100 kg to 1,000 kg; or 100-999 plants	Marijuana Mixture containing detectable quantity*	Not less than 5 years, not more than 40 years. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years, not more than life. Fine not more than \$2 million individual, \$5 million other than individual.	Not less than 10 years, not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than life. Fine not more than \$4 million individual, \$10 million other than individual.
50 to 100 kg	Marijuana	Not more than 20 years. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years, not more than life. Fine \$1 million individual, \$5 million other than individual.	Not more than 30 years. If death or serious injury, life. Fine \$2 million individual, \$10 million other than individual.
10 to 100 kg	Hashish		
1 to 100 kg	Hashish Oil		
50-99 plants	Marijuana		
Less than 50 kg	Marijuana	Not more than 5 years. Fine not more than \$250,000, \$1 million other than individual.	Not more than 10 years. Fine \$500,000 individual, \$2 million other than individual.
Less than 10 kg	Hashish		
Less than 1 kg	Hashish Oil		

*Includes Hashish and Hashish Oil

(Marijuana is a Schedule I Controlled Substance)

Controlled Substances – Uses and Effects

DRUGS CSA SCHEDULES	TRADE OR OTHER NAMES	MEDICAL USES	DEPENDENCE Physical Psychological	TOLER- ANCE	DURATIO N (Hours)	USUAL METHODS OF ADMINIS- TRATION	POSSIBLE EFFECTS	EFFECTS OF OVERDOSE	WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME	
NARCOTICS										
Opium II III IV	Dover's Powder, Paregoric, Parepectolin	Analgesic, Antidiarrheal	High	High	Yes	3-6	Oral, smoked	Euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, nausea	Slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma possible death	Watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, loss of appetite, irritability, tremors, panic, cramps, chills, and sweating
Morphine II III	Morphine, MS-Contin, Roxanol, Roxanol-SR	Analgesic, Antitussive	High	High	Yes	3-6	Oral, smoked, injected			
Codeine	Tylenol w/Codeine, Empirin w/Codeine, Robitussin A-C, Fiorinal w/Codeine	Analgesic, Antitussive	Moderate	Moderate	Yes	3-6	Oral, injected			
Heroin I	Diacetylmorphine, Horse, Smack	None	High	High	Yes	3-6	Injected, sniffed, smoked			
Hydromorphone II	Dilaudid	Analgesic	High	High	Yes	3-6	Oral, injected			
Meperidine (Pethidine) II	Demerol, Mepergan	Analgesic	High	High	Yes	3-6	Oral, injected			
Methadone II	Dolophine, Methadone, Methadose	Analgesic	High	High-Low	Yes	12-24	Oral, injected			
Other Narcotics I II III IV V	Nuromorph, Percodan, Percocet, Tylox, Tussionex, Fentanyl, Darvon, Lomofil, Talwin	Analgesic, antidiarrheal, antitussive	High-Low	High-Low	Yes	Variable	Oral, injected			
DEPRESSANTS										
Chloral Hydrate IV	Noctec	Hypnotic	Moderate	Moderate	Yes	5-8	Oral	Slurred speech, disorienta- tion, drunken behavior without odor of alcohol	Shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma, possible death	Anxiety, insomnia, tremors, delirium, convulsions, possible death
Barbiturates II III IV	Amytal, Butisol, Fiorinal, Lousate, Nembutal, Seconal, Tuinal, Phenobarbital	Anesthetic, anticonvulsant, sedative, hypnotic, veterinary euthanasic agent	High- Mod.	High-Mod.	Yes	1-16	Oral			
Benzodiazepines IV	Ativan, Dalmane, Diazepam, Librium, Xanax, Serax, Valium, Tranxex, Verstran, Versed, Halcion, Paxipam, Restoril	Antianxiety, anticonvulsant, sedative, hypnotic	Low	Low	Yes	4-8	Oral			
Methaqualone I	Quaalude	Sedative, hypnotic	High	High	Yes	4-8	Oral			
Glutethimide III	Doriden	Sedative, hypnotic	High	Moderate	Yes	4-8	Oral			
Other Depressants III IV	Equanil, Miltown, Noludar, Placidyl, Valmid	Antianxiety, sedative, hypnotic	Moderate	Moderate	Yes	4-8	Oral			

Controlled Substances - Uses and Effects

DRUGS, CSA SCHEDULES	TRADE OR OTHER NAMES	MEDICAL USES	DEPENDENCE Physical Psychological	TOLERANCE	DURATION (Hours)	USUAL METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION	POSSIBLE EFFECTS	EFFECTS OF OVERDOSE	WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME
STIMULANTS									
Cocaine II	Coke, Flake, Snow, Crack	Local anesthetic	Possible	High	1-2	Sniffed, smoked, injected	Increased alertness, excitation, euphoria, increased pulse rate and blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite	Agitation, increase in body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, possible death	Apathy, long periods of sleep, irritability, depression, disorientation
Amphetamines II	Biphetamine, Delcobase, Desoxyri, Dexedrine, Obetrol	Attention deficit disorders, narcolepsy, weight control	Possible	High	2-4	Oral, injected			
Phenmetrazine II	Preludin	Weight control	Possible	High	2-4	Oral, injected			
Methylphenidate II	Ritalin	Attention deficit disorders, narcolepsy	Possible	Moderate	2-4	Oral, injected			
Other Stimulants III IV	Adipex, Cylert, Didrex, Ionamin, Meilat, Plagine, Samorex, Tenuate, Taperul, Prelu-2	Weight control	Possible	High	2-4	Oral, injected			
HALLUCINOGENS									
LSD I	Acid, Microdot	None	None	Unknown	8-12	Oral	Illusions and hallucinations, poor perception of time and distance	Longer, more intense "trip" episodes, psychosis, possible death	Withdrawal syndrome not reported
Mescaline and Peyote I	Mexc, Buttons, Cactus	None	None	Unknown	8-12	Oral			
Amphetamine Variants I	2,5-DMA, PMA, STP, MDA, MDMA, TMA, DOM, DOB	None	Unknown	Unknown	Variable	Oral, injected			
Phencyclidine II	PCP, Angel Dust, Hog	None	Unknown	High	Days	Smoked, oral, injected			
Phencyclidine Analogues I	PCE, PCPY, TCP	None	Unknown	High	Days	Smoked, oral, injected			
Other Hallucinogens I	Bufoetone, Ibogaine, DMT, DET, Psilocybin, Psilocyn	None	None	Unknown	Variable	Smoked, oral, injected, sniffed			
CANNABIS									
Marijuana I	Pot, Acapulco Gold, Grass, Reefer, Sinsemilla, Thai Sticks	None	Unknown	Moderate	2-4	Smoked, oral	Euphoria, relaxed inhibitions, increased appetite, disoriented behavior	Fatigue, paranoia, possible psychosis	Insomnia, hyperactivity, and decreased appetite occasionally reported
Tetrahydrocannabinol I II	THC, Marinol	Cancer chemotherapy, anti-nauseant	Unknown	Moderate	2-4	Smoked, oral			
Hashish I	Hash	None	Unknown	Moderate	2-4	Smoked, oral			
Hashish Oil I	Hash Oil	None	Unknown	Moderate	2-4	Smoked, oral			
¹ Designated a narcotic under the CSA. ² Not designated a narcotic under the CSA.									