

# POLICY FOR A DRUG-FREE ENVIRON

## Policy for A Drug-Free Environment

Horry-Georgetown Technical College strives to provide a drug-free, healthful, safe, and secure educational environment. Students are required and expected to report to their classes or activities in an appropriate mental and physical condition to meet the requirements and expectations of their role. In order to prevent the consequences of alcohol and other drug use in the educational setting, the South Carolina Technical Education System has implemented a policy to ensure a drug-free educational environment. This policy outlines the punishment for violation of South Carolina laws dealing with illegal drugs and alcohol, along with severity of the penalty, depending on the type of illegal drug in question. The Policy is available online on the Student Right to Know page of the College website at [www.hgtc.edu/righttoknow](http://www.hgtc.edu/righttoknow). Students and employees are notified annually of the availability of this information.

The College has personal counseling services available and provides programs each year to create awareness and offer resources on alcohol and drug abuse concerns.

### The College

Horry-Georgetown Technical College is concerned about the adverse effects that drugs and alcohol can have upon society, families and education. To that end, HGTC is committed to establishing and promoting a campus free from alcohol and illegal drug use. Under no condition will alcoholic beverages, liquors or illegal drugs be permitted at student events either held at the college or sponsored by the college. No one under the influence of alcohol or narcotic will be permitted to attend such events. Students found to be under the influence will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. In an effort to maintain a drug-free learning environment, Horry-Georgetown Technical College Department of Campus and Public Safety, in conjunction with local law enforcement authorities, will periodically use drug dogs in conducting sweeps for illicit drugs in all of the parking lots, common areas, and buildings on all Horry-Georgetown Technical College campuses. The Director/Chief of Campus and Public Safety will arrange supervision and coordinate all canine searches with the assistance of local law enforcement authorities and Horry-Georgetown Campus and Public Safety personnel. These sweeps will be performed by handlers and canines trained and certified in the detection of illegal drugs/narcotics. Canines will be allowed to make sweeps through all common areas, parking lots, and will be utilized inside of buildings when deemed necessary by College authorities. Once a canine alerts, probable use to believe drugs are present in the area is created. Accordingly, searches will be conducted of vehicles and other areas once the canine alerts. Upon discovery of suspected illegal drugs/narcotics, persons who are determined to be in violation of State or Federal law and/or College rules and regulations, will face College disciplinary actions and possible arrest.

### The Law

As part of HGTC's commitment to all levels of achievement, policies in compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, and the South Carolina Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990 have been implemented. 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 by students and employees.

### Sanctions

HGTC does not tolerate the attempted or actual violation of any federal, state or local laws regarding alcohol and drugs. Student disciplinary action may be taken in response to conduct that poses a threat to persons or property in the College community or disrupts the orderly conduct of College activities. The College will impose sanctions on students for violations of the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System (HGTC Procedure 9.3.7.1) and/or violations of other relevant College policies or procedures, including HGTC Policy 9.3.3 Alcohol and Drugs.

Similarly, the College will impose sanctions on employees for violations in accordance with HGTC Policy 3.6.1, Disciplinary Actions, and HGTC Procedure 3.6.1.1, Disciplinary Action Procedure. All employees (including student workers) must adhere to laws and policies as a condition of employment. HGTC Policy 3.5.9, Employee Alcohol/Drug Use, and Procedure 3.5.9.1, Employee Alcohol/Drug Use Procedure, provides additional information.

Sanctions for students may include suspension or expulsion. Sanctions for employees may include termination. In addition to the penalties imposed by HGTC, referral may be made to the appropriate law enforcement agency.