

POLICY FOR A DRUG-FREE ENVIRON

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All policies regarding alcohol and substance abuse are published in this College catalog. All policies affecting college employees are available in the Office of Human Resources, at (843) 349-5213.

Further information regarding Drug-Free Schools and Campuses and Public Law 101-226 may be obtained in the Office of Student Affairs located in Building 1100 on the Conway Campus or by calling (843) 349-7550.

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 the use of alcoholic beverages, liquors or illegal drugs be permitted on campus or at student events at the College or sponsored by the College. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or narcotics will be subject to removal and disciplinary action as outlined in the SC Technical College Student Code. In an effort to maintain a drug-free learning environment, the College Department of Campus and Public Safety, in conjunction with local law enforcement authorities, will periodically conduct sweeps for illicit drugs using drug dogs in parking lots, common areas and buildings on all campuses. Once a canine alerts, probable cause to believe drugs are present is created. Accordingly, searches and other legal processes will ensue. Persons deemed to be in violation of State or Federal law or College regulations will face disciplinary action 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. In addition to the penalties imposed by HGTC, referral may be made to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Counseling and treatment options may also be presented. 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. All employees (including student workers) must adhere to laws and policies as a condition of employment.

HGTC officials are designated by the College President to be responsible for overseeing and implementing all actions and programs relating to these policies.

The Associate Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee) is responsible for administering The Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. The Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Employee Relations (or designee) is responsible for College personnel issues.

Risks

Individual reactions to alcohol and other drugs are unpredictable. The use of mood altering chemicals can lead to injuries, accidents, addiction, property damage, illegal activities, birth defects, psychosis or death. Poor judgment may lead to participation in risky activities, such as unplanned or unprotected sex. AIDS is a significant risk, as are other sexually transmitted diseases and health concerns.

According to the Center for Disease Control, more deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined. Alcohol abuse, alcoholism, and other health and developmental effects of alcohol use are significant problems with high mortality rates. Alcohol-related car crashes are the number one cause of death in the college-age population. Under no circumstances should a person drive a car after drinking.

The purchase or possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21 is prohibited by law. Some violations mandate the loss of the offender's driver's license, as well as fines and imprisonment. Legal penalties for drug violations are even tougher. Depending on the nature of the substance, the driver's license of any individual convicted of a controlled substance violation can be suspended for a period of at least six months and up to one year. Other legal penalties can range from a \$100 fine or 30 days in jail to life imprisonment and an \$8 million fine. All convictions are recorded on an individual's permanent criminal record.

Risks from alcohol and other drug use may be heightened by:

- The type, amount and strength of the chemical;
 - The interaction of two or more substances;
 - Physical and emotional state;
 - Gender, body size, age, general health and family history;
- and,
- Activities engaged in while under the influence.

Marijuana (pot, hash, etc.) can impair short-term memory, coordination and judgment. Confusion and rapid mood changes may occur. It can be psychologically addictive and is known to have cancer-causing properties.

Hallucinogens come in a vast array of chemical compounds such as LSD, PCP, XTC, mushrooms, etc. They can cause a variety of effects ranging from nausea and increased blood pressure

to distortions in body image, delusions, sensory cross over, paranoia and psychotic episodes. Overdoses may result in liver damage, heart and lung failure and/or convulsions. Cocaine is extremely addictive. It can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks or death the first or 100th time of use. It can also cause impotence.