



Drug-Free School Policy

The possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of alcohol, unauthorized or illegal drugs, or the misuse of any legal drugs on college premises or at any college activity, is strictly prohibited and will constitute grounds for disciplinary action, which may include expulsion.

K-9 Drug Dogs on Campus

In seeking to maintain a drug-free campus, canine (K-9) drug detection dogs may be utilized to search all public and common areas in all campus parking lots and buildings for the purpose of detecting illegal drugs and narcotics.

The Director of Campus Police will arrange supervision and coordinate all canine searches with the assistance of campus police officers, appropriate housing personnel, administrators, and other local law enforcement agencies. Searches will be performed by handlers and canines trained and certified in the detection of illegal drugs/narcotics.

Canines will be allowed to search areas such as residence hall rooms, offices, and vehicles after the canine alerts to one of these areas, thus developing probable cause. Once probable cause is established, the canine will be allowed to enter the residence hall room/office/vehicle in accordance with law and college policy and continue searching.

Upon any 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 may be arrested and may face college disciplinary charges.

Disciplinary Action and Sanctions

Appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken in all cases in which a student violates provisions of the Northwest Drug-Free School Policy. Penalties and/or sanctions may include any one or a combination of the following:

1. recommended professional counseling;
2. letter of probation;
3. fine;
4. mandatory participation in an organized drug treatment program;
5. denial or termination of financial aid or scholarships; and/or
6. withdrawal, suspension, or expulsion from Northwest.

The circumstances surrounding the offense and the facts as determined by appropriate investigation will be fully reviewed prior to a decision on the action being taken.

Legal Sanctions

Local, state, and federal legal statutes contain sanctions for violations of laws concerning the use, distribution, manufacture, and/or possession of alcohol and illegal drugs. These sanctions include imprisonment for a period of time up to a term of life imprisonment, fines, supervised release, or any combination of the above.

In Mississippi the legal drinking age is 21. It is unlawful for a person under 21 years of age to possess alcoholic beverages, and the selling, giving, or serving of alcoholic beverages to persons under

21 is unlawful. In some counties of the state (designated as dry counties) the possession of any alcoholic beverages by any person regardless of age is prohibited.

Specific legal sanctions for violations of these laws are contained in the United States Code, the Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated, and local city and county laws and ordinances.

Health Risks Associated with Alcohol and Drug Use

Abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs, and the misuse of any legal drugs, can result in serious health consequences. Some health risks associated with the most common mood-altering substances include: organ damage; impairment of brain activity, digestion, and blood circulation; addiction; increased likelihood of accidents; increased risk of contracting hepatitis, AIDS, and other infections; various birth defects; respiratory paralysis; and death. The use of alcohol can lead to: loss of muscle control, poor coordination, and slurred speech; fatigue, nausea, and headache; impaired judgment; increased likelihood of accidents; alcoholism; damage to brain cells; hallucinations; personality disorders; increased risk of cirrhosis, ulcers, heart disease, heart attack, and cancer; and death.

Commonly abused mood-altering drugs include: narcotics (including heroin, morphine, codeine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, methadone, fentanyl, Demerol, Percodan and others); depressants (including chloral hydrate, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, gluethimide, Valium and others); stimulants (including cocaine, amphetamine/methamphetamine, methylphenidate and others); cannabis (including marijuana, tetahydracannabinol, hashish, and hashish oil); hallucinogens (including LSD, mescaline and peyote, amphetamine variants, phencyclidines, and others); anabolic steroids (including testosterone, nandrolone, oxymethalone, and others); and designer drugs (including synthetic heroin, ecstasy, and other chemically modified forms of drugs).

Resources

The College employs professional counselors, and the Student Development Center is prepared to help students find appropriate assistance in dealing with alcohol and drug-related problems. It is each student's responsibility to seek assistance before the problem affects judgment, performance, or behavior.

Telephone numbers of some of the agencies providing counseling, treatment, education, and other alcohol and drug-related services are:

Northwest Student Development Center (562-3320)

Regional Mental Health Center (562-5216)

Tate County Health Department (562-4428)

Parkwood Hospital (895-4900)

National Hotline Numbers:

1-800-COCAINE

1-800-662-HELP

1-800-342-2437

1-800-729-6686 (National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Abuse)

Reporting Requirement

Any student who is convicted of a drug-related offense must inform the college within five (5) college working days of such a conviction. This notice must be in writing to the Vice President for Student Services. A student with such a conviction may be subject to disciplinary action and may jeopardize the receipt of financial aid and scholarships.

Annual Distribution

The Drug-Free Workplace Certification Policy is included in the college's Policy Manual. The Drug-Free School Policy is included in the Student Guide each year. The Student Guide is annually distributed to each student with the registration literature. This distribution is the responsibility of the Vice President for Student Services and Center Deans.

Biannual Review

A biannual review (every 2 years) of the drug prevention program will be conducted to determine its effectiveness, implement needed changes, and ensure that disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced. The Vice President for Student Services will have the responsibility of appointing a committee to conduct the review.

A sample of students and employees will be surveyed to determine the effectiveness of the current policy and recommend any changes.

Recordkeeping

The President will appoint persons to be responsible for keeping and maintaining records of violations of this policy and the Drug-Free Workplace Certification Policy, including records of any penalties and/or sanctions imposed on students or employees. Student records will be maintained in the Student Services Office, and employee records will be maintained in the Human Resources Office.

Northwest Mississippi Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, gender identity, age, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran in all its programs and activities. Northwest Mississippi Community College prohibits sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence, regardless of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. The following have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990/Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Disability Support Services Coordinator, Tate Hall, P.O. Box 5555, 4975 Highway 51 North, Senatobia, MS 38668, telephone number 662-562-3309, e-mail address abeard@northwestms.edu; Title II of the Age Discrimination Act: Vice President for Finance, James P. McCormick Administration Building, P.O. Box 7017, 4975 Highway 51 North, Senatobia, MS 38668, telephone number 662-562-3216, e-mail address atmosley@northwestms.edu; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972/Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: Vice President for Student Services, Tate Hall, P.O. Box 7010, 4975 Highway 51 North, Senatobia, MS 38668, telephone number 662-562-3997, e-mail address dsmith@northwestms.edu