

# Student Drug & Alcohol Policy

*MTSA Policy 5.1.111*

MTSA prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol on the MTSA campus, the Madison Campus SDA Church campus, Tristar Skyline Madison Campus, or on the campus of any affiliate site.

Since many drugs alter one's alertness, and mental alertness is crucial during the provision of anesthesia, students may be screened for drugs and alcohol at any time they are committed to either clinical or classroom assignments. MTSA contracts with an outside company to perform drug/alcohol screening of students throughout the program of study, as needed.

Students should be aware that if they are found to test positive for substances such as alcohol, opioids, or benzodiazepines, even if those substances have been prescribed by a healthcare provider, they will be subject to disciplinary action, at the discretion of the Program Administrator and the Progressions Committee. Therefore, students are required to report any alertness-altering prescribed substance use (i.e. treatment for anxiety and learning disabilities) to the Program Administrator.

## Health Risks

As part of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, MTSA is required to inform all students of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.

The use of alcohol can lead to the following serious health risks:

- ◆ Loss of muscle control, poor coordination, slurred speech
- ◆ Fatigue, nausea, headache
- ◆ Increased likelihood of accidents
- ◆ Impaired judgement
- ◆ Possible respiratory paralysis
- ◆ Death

Heavy use of alcohol can lead to the following problems:

- ◆ Damage to brain cells
- ◆ Increased risk of cirrhosis, ulcers, heart disease, heart attack
- ◆ Increased risk of cancers of the liver, mouth, throat, and stomach
- ◆ Hallucinations
- ◆ Personality disorders

Health risks associated with the use of illegal drugs include the following:

- ◆ Increased susceptibility to disease due to less efficient immune system
- ◆ Increased likelihood of accidents
- ◆ Personality disorders
- ◆ Addiction
- ◆ Anemia
- ◆ Poor coordination
- ◆ Death

## Resources

MTSA does not provide drug/alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation programs for students.

Upon request or in appropriate situations, the School may refer the student to a private counselor, center, or program for assistance with such needs.

### **Local Resources for Help in Davidson County**

Metro Police Non-Emergency	615-862-8600
Nashville Poison Control	615-936-2034
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233
RAINN National Rape Crisis Hotline	800-656-4673
TN Crisis Services & Suicide Prevention	855-274-7471
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	800-273-8255
Cumberland Height Alcohol & Drug Treatment Center	800-646-9998 / 615-356-2700
Tennessee Professional Assistant Program	615-726-4001

### **Legal Sanctions Under State and Federal Law**

The following is a summary of Tennessee and federal sanctions for the unlawful use of illicit drugs and alcohol. While the summary is a good faith effort to provide information, MTSA does not guarantee that it is an error-free or exhaustive accounting.

Under federal law, a civil penalty of up to \$100,000 and imprisonment of up to one year may be imposed for simple possession of certain specified controlled substances. Possession of crack cocaine may lead to civil penalties of up to \$250,000 and imprisonment of up to twenty years. Also, possession of a controlled substance can result in the denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts and professional and commercial licenses, and the forfeiture of personal property and real estate used to transport, conceal or facilitate such possession. In addition, possession of a controlled substance can lead to ineligibility to receive or purchase a firearm.

Under federal law, it is unlawful to manufacture, distribute, dispense, deliver, sell or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, dispense, deliver or sell controlled substances. The penalty imposed depends upon many factors that include the type and amount of controlled substance involved; the number or prior offenses, if any; whether death or serious bodily harm resulted from the use of such substance; and whether any other crimes were committed in connection with the use of the controlled substance. Even a first-time violation can result in life imprisonment; a fine of up to \$4,000,000 per individual; supervised release; or any combination of these penalties. These sanctions are doubled when the offense involves either: (1) distribution or possession at or near a school or university campus, or (2) distribution to persons under 21 years of age. Repeat offenders may face greater penalties.

Under Tennessee law, it is unlawful for any person under the age of 21 to buy, possess, transport (unless in the course of their employment) or consume alcoholic beverages, including wine or beer. It is unlawful for any adult to buy alcoholic beverages for or furnish them for any purpose to anyone under 21 years of age. These offenses are classified Class A Misdemeanors punishable by imprisonment for not more than eleven months and twenty-nine days or a fine of not more than \$2,500 or both. The offense of public intoxication is a Class A Misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more than thirty days or a fine of not more than \$50 or both.

Under Tennessee law, the offense of possession or casual exchange of a controlled substance (such as marijuana) is punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor (eleven months, twenty-nine days and/or a fine of \$2,500). For the third and subsequent offense of possession of ½ oz. or less of marijuana, punishment is one to six years of imprisonment and a \$3,000 fine. If there is an exchange from a person over 21 years of age to a person under 21 and the older person is at least two years older than the younger and the

older person knows that the younger person is under 21, then the offense is classified as a felony. Possession of more than ½ oz. of marijuana under circumstances where intent to resell may be implicit is punishable by one to six years of imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine for the first offense. Maximum Tennessee penalties for possession, manufacture or distribution of substantial quantities of a controlled substance range from fifteen to sixty years of imprisonment and up to a \$500,000 fine. The State of Tennessee may, under certain circumstances, impound a vehicle used to transport or conceal controlled substances.