



## DRUG-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

It is the policy of Becker College to create a drug-free campus in keeping with the spirit of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and Amendments of 1989. The unlawful use of controlled substances and/or alcohol is inconsistent with the behavior expected of students and employees of the College. Thus, Becker College strictly prohibits the illegal use, manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession of illicit drugs and/or alcohol by employees or students on its properties or as part of any of its activities.

In addition, if a student or employee is convicted of any criminal drug statute, he/she must notify the College within five (5) days of that conviction. The College will then be required to notify the appropriate federal agencies within ten (10) days following such notice.

Any employee or student experiencing problems arising from drug or alcohol abuse or dependency should seek treatment from his/her physician. In instances where it is necessary, sick leave for employees will be granted for in-patient treatment or rehabilitation on the same basis as is granted for other for other health problems.

To educate students and employees on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, the College has established a drug-free awareness program. Students are required to complete an online educational program before their arrival on campus, and additional programs and speakers are offered during the academic year.

Students or employees who violate any aspect of the policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions (consistent with local, state and federal law) up to and including dismissal from the College. The College reserves the right to require employees to successfully complete a drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program as a condition of continued employment.

The following is a list of community and campus sources of information and referral for student and employees with drug and alcohol related problems:

### **COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

ADCARE Hospital  
107 Lincoln St.  
1-800- ALCOHOL or 508 799-9000

Alcoholics Anonymous  
100 Grove St.  
Worcester MA  
508 752-9000

Spectrum Addiction Services  
105 Merrick St.  
Worcester, MA 01609



National Institute on Drug Abuse Hotline—1-800-662-HELP

### **ON-CAMPUS**

Chantelle Pseekos, Ph.D., Director of Counseling Services, ext. 9544

John M. Pratico, Psy.D., Assoc. Director of Training and Outreach, ext. 0466

Kathleen M. Garvey, Associate Vice-President, Human Resources, ext. 9455

Catherine Meloche, RN, Director of Health Services, ext. 0464

### **HEALTH RISKS**

There are a number of health risks associated with alcohol and other drug use. Some of those risks are summarized below:

**Alcohol:** Alcohol consumption causes a number of changes in behavior and physiology. Even low doses significantly impair judgment, coordination and abstract mental functioning. Statistics show that alcohol use is involved in a majority of violent behaviors on college campuses, including acquaintance rape, vandalism, fights and incidents of drinking and driving. Continued abuse may lead to dependency, which often causes permanent damage to vital organs and deterioration of a healthy lifestyle.

**Cannabis (Marijuana, Hashish):** The use of marijuana may impair or reduce short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, and reduce coordination and energy level. Users often have a lowered immune system and an increased risk of lung cancer. The active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is stored in fatty tissues of the brain and reproductive system for a minimum of 28-30 days.

**Hallucinogens:** Lysergic acid (LSD), mescaline, and psilocybin cause illusions and hallucinations. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, and loss of control. Delayed effects, or flashbacks, can occur even when use has ceased. Phencyclidine (PCP) affects the section of the brain that controls the intellect and keeps instincts in check. Because the drug blocks pain receptors, violent PE\CP episodes may result in self-inflicted injuries.

**Cocaine/Crack:** Cocaine users often have a stuffy, runny nose and may have a perforated nasal septum. The immediate effects of cocaine use include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature, followed by depression. Crack or freebase rock cocaine is extremely addictive and can cause delirium, hallucinations, blurred vision, severe chest pain, muscle spasms, convulsions and even death.

**Amphetamines:** Amphetamines can cause rapid or irregular heartbeat, tremors, loss of coordination, collapse and death. Heavy users are prone to irrational acts.

**Heroin:** Heroin is an opiate drug that causes the body to have diminished pain reactions. The use of heroin can result in coma or death due to a reduction in heart rate.



## LEGAL SANCTIONS COVERING ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE (SUMMARY)

Local, state and federal laws make illegal use of drugs and alcohol serious crimes. Conviction can lead to imprisonment, fines, and assigned community service. Courts do not lift prison sentences in order for convicted persons to attend college or continue their jobs. A felony conviction for such offense can prevent a person from entering many professions or fields of employment.

Cities and towns in Massachusetts, including Worcester, prohibit public consumption of alcohol and impose fines for violation. The Metropolitan District commission also prohibits public consumption of alcohol in its parks.

The legal drinking age in Massachusetts is 21 years. Massachusetts laws prohibit sale or delivery of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 with a fine of up to \$2,000 and 6 months imprisonment, or both. Purchasing alcoholic beverages if one is under 21, or misrepresenting one's age or falsifying an identification to obtain alcoholic beverages is punishable by a fine of \$300.

It is unlawful for a person under 21 to knowingly drive a car with alcohol in it, or for anyone to drive while drinking. Persons may not drive while under the influence of alcohol. First conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol has a penalty of \$1,000 fine, one-year revocation of driver's license, up to two years in prison, or mandatory alcohol rehabilitation. Anyone who drives while under the influence of alcohol and seriously injures or kills someone is punished by imprisonment for not less than 2 ½ years, a fine of not more than \$5,000, and revocation of his/her driver's license for 2 years (in the case of serious injury) or 10 years (in the case of death).

Massachusetts has criminal penalties for use of controlled substances, or drugs, with penalties varying with the type of drug. In general, narcotic, addictive, and drugs with a high potential for abuse have heavier penalties.

Possession of drugs is illegal without valid authorization. While penalties for possession are generally not as great as for manufacture and distribution of drugs, possession of a relatively large quantity may be considered distribution. Under both state and federal law penalties for possession, manufacture, and distribution are much greater for second and subsequent convictions. Many laws dictate mandatory prison terms, and the full minimum term must be served.

Massachusetts makes it illegal to be in a place where heroin is kept and to be "in the company" of a person known to possess heroin. Anyone in the presence of heroin at a private party or dormitory suite risks a serious drug conviction. Sale and possession of "drug paraphernalia" is illegal in Massachusetts.

Persons convicted of drug possession under state or federal law are ineligible for federal student grants and loans for up to one year after the first conviction, five years after the second; the penalty for distributing drugs is loss of benefits for five years after the first, 10 years after the second, permanently after the third conviction.

Under federal law, distribution of drugs to persons under 21 is punishable by twice the normal penalty with a mandatory one-year in prison; a third conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment. These penalties apply to distribution of drugs in or within 1,000 feet of a college or school. Federal Law sets reatly



heightened prison sentences for manufacture and distribution of drugs if death or serious injury results from use of the substance.