



Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

Introduction

Valley College complies with the *Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act* and the *Drug-Free Workplace Act*, which require institutions of higher education receiving federal funds to implement programs that prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees.

As part of this commitment, Valley College distributes an annual report outlining our drug and alcohol abuse prevention program. The report includes campus policies, prohibited conduct, applicable state, local, and federal sanctions, health risks associated with substance abuse, information on treatment and rehabilitation resources, and Valley College disciplinary sanctions.

All students and employees are expected to review this information carefully. Maintaining a drug-free campus is essential to the safety, well-being, and success of our community. If you have questions, please contact your Campus Director.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Valley College is dedicated to providing a learning and working environment free from drugs and alcohol. The use of alcohol or the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, or possession of controlled substances on college property or during college-sponsored activities is strictly prohibited. Violations may result in disciplinary action, including drug testing, suspension, expulsion, or termination of employment.

Valley College reserves the right to investigate any suspicious activity regarding nonprescription and illegal drugs, as well as alcohol. Investigation may include but is not limited to classroom inspection, office inspections or requests students or employees to submit to drug screening in cases of strong suspicion of drug or alcohol use. Refusal to submit to these measures at time of request may be viewed as strong evidence of drug/or alcohol use which could result in student's termination from the program or in the employee's termination.

Employees and students are also prohibited from:

- Reporting to class, work, clinicals, externship, or any College activity while impaired by alcohol, controlled substances, or any other substance that creates impairment or hinders the ability to perform student or employee duties and responsibilities; and
- Possessing or using marijuana on campus or during college-related activities, regardless of any state medical marijuana authorization.

Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, and the College enforces this policy consistent with federal requirements.

A description of applicable legal sanctions for unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol under federal, state, and local law is included in the Annual Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention program disclosure. Resources for drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation are also available through the College's student and employee support services. Students or employees may be referred to outside counseling and treatment help centers or programs. The College will use its sole discretion to determine the exact conditions of continued enrollment or employment in such a case.

Valley College also prohibits the use of all tobacco products—including cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, and electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes, vapes, JUULs)—in classrooms, at school events, and in all areas except designated smoking zones on each campus.

Prohibited Actions

Valley College strictly prohibits the use, consumption, sale, purchase, transfer, or possession of any controlled substance by students or employees while attending class, working at or visiting any Valley College facility, or participating in any official college activity. Students and employees are also prohibited from being under the influence of any controlled substance or alcohol while performing work duties, attending class, or participating in training, meetings, or other college-sponsored activities. Legally prescribed medications are permitted when used as directed by a licensed healthcare provider. However, such medications must not impair an individual's ability to perform their job, participate safely in class, or protect the well-being of themselves or others.

Valley College's Disciplinary Sanctions

Any student or employee who violates this policy is subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary measures may include Valley College providing information or referrals to external counseling or treatment resources. Violations may also result in termination of training for students or termination of employment for employees.

State, Local and Federal Sanctions

The following is a description of some of the applicable legal sanctions under federal, state, and local laws for the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs, including alcohol. This list is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all offenses involving drugs and alcohol, and this material should not be relied upon as legal advice or guidance regarding these offenses.

A summary of penalties under **Federal Law** can be found on the DEA Website: Federal Sanctions and Penalties for Unlawful Possession or Distribution of Illicit Drugs

Federal Drug Trafficking Penalties – Summary Chart (DEA, December 2022)

Source: [DEA Federal Trafficking Penalties Chart \(PDF\)](#)

This chart outlines penalties under federal law for unlawful possession or distribution of controlled substances. It includes:

- Drug categories (e.g., Schedule I–V)
- Specific substances (e.g., heroin, cocaine, LSD, methamphetamine, fentanyl)
- Minimum and maximum penalties by drug type and quantity
- Enhanced penalties for repeat offenders or trafficking near schools

Note: Federal penalties apply uniformly across all states, including West Virginia and Ohio.

Update Note: HALT Fentanyl Act

- **Permanently schedules fentanyl-related substances** under **Schedule I** of the Controlled Substances Act
- Authorizes streamlined procedures for scheduling other analogues
- Reinforces **mandatory minimum sentencing** for trafficking fentanyl analogues

Additional Information are available at this link: [Drug Trafficking | United States Sentencing Commission](#)

West Virginia State and Local Sanctions

[West Virginia Code | §1-4](#)

Chapter 60A - Uniform Controlled Substances Act

Article 4 - Subsection 60A-4-401

Offenses and Penalties

It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, deliver or possess with intent to manufacture or deliver, a controlled substance. Any person guilty of a felony, upon conviction, may be imprisoned in the penitentiary for not less than one year or more than fifteen years, or fined not more than \$25,000, or both. Any person guilty of a misdemeanor, upon conviction, may be confined in the county jail for not less than six months or more than one year, or fined not more than five thousand dollars or both.

Distribution to persons under the age of eighteen by persons over the age of twenty-one; distribution by persons eighteen or over in or on, or within one thousand feet of, school or college, will be ineligible for parole for a period of two years.

Any person convicted of a second or subsequent offense may be imprisoned for a term up to twice the term otherwise authorized, fined an amount up to twice that otherwise authorized, or both.

Article 7 - West Virginia Contraband Forfeiture Act.

Items subject to forfeiture:

- * All controlled substances which have been manufactured, distributed, dispensed or possessed in violation of Chapter 60A.
- * All raw materials used in manufacture of controlled substances, aircraft, vehicles or vessels used to transport or facilitate transportation, sale, receipt, possession or concealment of property and all real property used in any manner to commit a violation of Chapter 60A punishable by more than one year in prison.

More specific information for the Medical Cannabis Act can be found at this link [West Virginia Code | §16A](#)

Ohio State and Local Sanctions

[Chapter 2925 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 2925.02 provides that no person shall knowingly corrupt another with drugs by inducing or forcing them to use a controlled substance.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Mandatory imprisonment from 6 months to 10 years, depending upon amount and type of drug involved and history of previous drug abuse offenses.

ORC 2925.03 provides that no person shall knowingly "traffick" in controlled or illicit substances, including marijuana. Trafficking includes selling, offering to sell, delivering, distributing, preparing, cultivating, and manufacturing of controlled substances.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Mandatory fines range from \$100 to \$20,000, depending on offense and drug involved. Mandatory jail sentences range from 6 months to 10 years.

ORC 2925.11 provides that no person shall knowingly obtain, possess, or use a controlled substance.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Drug abuse involving amounts of marijuana less than 100 grams carries a penalty of \$100. Other violations involving marijuana result in mandatory jail terms of not more than 8 years and mandatory fines of \$15,000. Drug abuse offenses involving other drugs may result in jail terms of up to 10 years and fines of \$20,000.

ORC 2925.12 provides that no person shall make obtain, possess, or use drug abuse instruments.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: A first offense can carry a jail term of up to 90 days and fines of \$750.

ORC 2925.14 provides that no person shall knowingly use, possess with purpose to use, sell, manufacture or advertise drug paraphernalia.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Depending upon the facts, imprisonment up to 6 months and fines up to \$1,000.

ORC 2925.31 provides, except for lawful research, clinical, medical, dental, or veterinary purposes, no person with intent to induce intoxication or similar effect, shall obtain, possess, or use a harmful intoxicant.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Up to \$1,000 and 6 months in jail.

ORC 2925.37 provides that no person shall knowingly possess, make, sell, or deliver counterfeit controlled substances.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Depending upon the facts, the penalty can be up to 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine, but aggravating circumstances can cause the offense to become a felony of the fourth degree with prison terms between 6-18 months and a fine up to \$5,000.

ORC 4301.63 provides that no person under the age of 21 years shall purchase beer or intoxicating liquor.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: A fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 may be imposed. The court may order that the fine be paid by the performance of public work at a reasonable hourly rate established by the court and shall designate the time within which the public work shall be completed.

ORC 4301.631 provides that no underage person can purchase low alcohol beverages, that no person may furnish low alcohol beverages to an underage person, and that no person shall allow underage persons to consume low alcohol beverages on his/her property.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Punishments for violating ORC 4301.631 range from fines of \$25 to \$250 and imprisonment up to 30 days.

ORC 4301.633 provides that no person shall knowingly furnish any false information as to the name, age, or other identification of any person under 21 years of age for the purpose of obtaining beer or intoxicating liquor for a person under 21 years of age, by purchase or as a gift.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a \$1,000 fine.

ORC 4301.634 provides that no person under the age of 21 years shall knowingly show or give false information concerning his name, age, or other identification for the purpose of purchasing or otherwise obtaining beer or intoxicating liquor in any place in this state where beer or intoxicating liquor is sold under a permit issued by the department of liquor control.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a \$1,000 fine.

ORC 4301.64 prohibits the consumption of any beer or intoxicating liquor in a motor vehicle.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Misdemeanor of the fourth degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 30 days and a \$250 fine.

ORC 4301.69(A) prohibits selling beer or intoxicating liquor to a person under the age of 21 years, or buying it for or furnishing it to such a person.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Misdemeanor. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a fine of not less than \$500 and no more than \$1,000.

ORC 4301.69(E) provides that no underage person shall knowingly possess or consume any beer or intoxicating liquor, in any public or private place, unless he is accompanied by a parent, spouse, or legal guardian, who is not an underage person, or unless the beer or intoxicating liquor is given for medical or religious purposes.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a \$1,000 fine.

ORC 4511.19 prohibits any person from driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or any drug of abuse.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: Misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a \$1,000 fine, in addition to license suspension. Penalties for repeat offenders can result in up to 5 years in prison.

Health Risks

Substance abuse, that is abuse of drugs or alcohol, is now recognized as the number one public health problem in the United States. Substance abuse is accountable for deaths from strokes, diseases of the heart and liver, and all alcohol and drug related suicides, homicides, and accidents. Early detection can minimize or prevent the devastating consequences of substance abuse.

The National Institute of Drug Abuse is the lead federal agency supporting scientific research on drug use and its consequences. Click on these web sites for more information:

[Addiction and Health | National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#)

[Drugs A to Z | National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#)

Controlled Substances: Effects

A description of the health risks associated with substances under the Controlled Substances Act (21. U.S.C.811) found at the links posted below.

[Drug Fact Sheets | DEA.gov](#)

[Drug Fact Sheets](#)

Alcohol Effects

Alcohol consumption causes several marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects just described.

Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations and convulsions. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver.

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than other youngsters of becoming alcoholics.

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention offers fact sheets regarding Alcohol Use and your Health.

[Alcohol Use and Your Health | Alcohol Use | CDC](#)

Ideas to help with drug or alcohol abuse prevention:

[Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\).](#)

Know the Facts: Understand how substances affect your brain, body, and future. Awareness is power—especially when it comes to long-term risks like addiction or academic setbacks.

- **Strengthening Your Coping Skills:** Stress happens. Build resilience through tools like journaling, mindfulness, campus counseling, or workout sessions to avoid turning to drugs or alcohol.
- **Stick With Supportive Friends:** Surround yourself with people who respect your choices and won't pressure you to use. Positive peer groups can make all the difference.
- **Join Clubs or Find Your Passion:** Get involved in sports, music, volunteering, or whatever energizes you. When you're busy doing what you love, substance use becomes less tempting.
- **Watch for Early Warning Signs:** If you or a friend starts skipping class, feeling out of control, or turning to substances more often—don't wait. Reach out to campus resources.
- **Get Help When You Need It:** Your community offers confidential support through counseling services, hotlines, and recovery programs. You're never alone. Valley College may be able to help you find the right resource.

- **Respect Diverse Perspectives:** Students come from all kinds of backgrounds and beliefs. Stay open and non-judgmental, whether you're seeking help or offering it.
- **Educate Others:** Start conversations, share facts, and challenge myths around substance use. You might inspire someone else to make a healthy choice.
- **Think Long-Term:** Substance-free doesn't mean missing out—it means protecting your energy, focus, and freedom to chase what really matters to you.

Treatment and Recovery Resources

Seeking Assistance

Students and employees who are concerned about their own or another person's alcohol or drug use are encouraged to seek help as early as possible. In addition to the resources listed in this document, individuals may wish to contact:

- Their primary care physician or healthcare provider
- Their health insurance company for information about covered treatment services
- A licensed mental health professional or counselor
- Their local community health center
- Campus administration for referrals to local resources

Healthcare providers can assist with screening, assessment, treatment recommendations, referrals, and access to appropriate support services.

24/7 Crisis and Support Services

- [HELP4WV](https://www.help4wv.com) (**West Virginia Residents**) – Call, text, or chat support
844-HELP4WV (844-735-7498)
<https://www.help4wv.com>

Help4WV.com offers a 24/7 call, chat, and text line that provides immediate help for any West Virginian struggling with addiction or mental health issues.

- [888-OHIO-211](https://ohio211.org/) (**Ohio Residents**) – Call support
211 or 888-OHIO-211
<https://ohio211.org/>

211 in Ohio is the state's lifeline to free, confidential, and accessible help for everyday challenges. It is designed to help people find the right community resources.

National Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline

- [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline \(U.S.\)](https://988lifeline.org)
Call or text 988
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
<https://988lifeline.org>

988 is a **three-digit dial-code hotline** operated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) through Vibrant Emotional Health. It connects callers, texters, and chat users to trained crisis counselors across the U.S. and its territories.

National Support Organizations

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**
National Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
<https://www.samhsa.gov>

- **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)**
<https://www.aa.org>
- **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**
<https://www.na.org>
- **Al-Anon (Support for families)**
<https://al-anon.org>

Campus Support

Valley College campuses can assist with:

- Information for treatment providers and counseling resources that may provide
 - o Outpatient counseling services
 - o Inpatient and detox programs
 - o Mental health support providers

Contact your **Campus Director or Student Services Office** for assistance.

Annual Distribution

Valley College distributes this Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program annually to all students and employees through electronic delivery and makes the document available upon request. New students and employees receive information regarding the program during orientation and onboarding.

Biennial Review

The College conducted its biennial review in 2026. The review evaluated the effectiveness of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program and the consistency of disciplinary sanctions. No drug or alcohol violations were reported during the review period. Based on available data, the College determined that the program continues to support compliance with its policies and federal requirements. Recommendations for ongoing improvement are maintained with the biennial review records.