

The Board of Regents of The University of Texas System designated The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston ("university") a "Drug Free University" on August 1, 1990. And in compliance with this policy, the university provides online information for students and employees regarding alcohol and other drug possession, use, abuse, and distribution, including standards of conduct and penalties for rule and law violations.

State and federal laws regarding the possession, use, and sale of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are strictly enforced by The University of Texas at Houston Police Department. Violators are subject to criminal prosecution by law enforcement authorities, fines, and imprisonment.

Substance Abuse or Dependency

Substance abuse is a situation where school and job performance suffers from the after effects or from the actual effects of intoxication. Responsibilities to the household, child care, procrastination, and absenteeism are all part of a neglect lifestyle that may occur. When these symptoms are accompanied by tolerance, withdrawal, or compulsive behavior related to drug use, dependency should be considered.

At an April 26, 1990 joint American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) meeting alcohol dependency was defined as follows:

"Alcoholism is a primary, chronic disease with genetic, psychological, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. The disease is often progressive and fatal. It is characterized by continuous or periodic: impaired control over drinking, preoccupation with the drug alcohol, use of alcohol despite adverse consequences, and distortions in thinking, most notably denial."

The reference Guide to Addiction Counseling
Prepared by Manissess Communications Group, Inc.

Symptoms of Drug or Alcohol Abuse

The following are generic symptoms that may indicate substance abuse or a dependency problem:

- You believe that in order to have fun you need to drink or use drugs.
- You turn to alcohol/drugs after a confrontation or argument, or to relieve uncomfortable feelings.
- You drink more or use more drugs to get the same effect that you got with smaller amounts.
- You drink or use drugs alone.
- You have trouble at work or in school because of your drinking or drugging.
- You make promises to yourself or others that you'll stop using.
- You feel alone, scared, miserable, and depressed.
- Inability to control drinking/drug use--it seems that regardless of what you decide beforehand, you frequently wind up under the influence.
- A change in personality--turning from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde.
- Blackouts--sometimes not remembering what happened while under the influence.
- Problems at work or in school as a result of drugs/alcohol.
- Concern shown by family and friends about drugs/alcohol.

Health Risks of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse

Alcohol	Drugs
Alcohol affects the brain and nervous system by slowing down reactions and dulls the brain.	Increased/decreased heart rate, dry mouth and throat, and increased/decreased appetite.
Inhibitions are lowered making a more aggressive and hostile person.	Dilated or constricted, blood shot or glassy eyes.
In higher dosages, alcohol can cause black outs,	Impairment or reduction in short-term memory

impair concentration and ability to judge situations properly.	and comprehension, alter sense of time, reduce ability to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination, and impair driving ability.
Liver function is altered with chronic alcohol abuse.	Motivation and cognition may be altered, making the acquisition of new information difficult.
Hepatitis results when the liver cells are damaged due to recent heavy drinking.	Hepatitis C is easily contractible while sharing syringes.
Cirrhosis is when large areas of the liver are destroyed or scarred.	Long-term use can also produce sleep disorder, paranoia and psychosis
Chronic alcohol abuse results in the inability of the blood vessels to shrink back to normal giving the person a permanent reddish look.	Long-term use may result in possible lung damage, liver, reduced sperm count and sperm motility, and may affect ovulation cycles.
Long-term alcohol use creates damage and weakens the heart's muscular tissue resulting in heart failure.	Elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature most often accompany stimulant.
Anemia and bleeding disorders can also result from chronic alcohol abuse.	Sudden increases in blood pressure that can result in stroke, very high fever, or heart failure.
Prolonged use can cause chronic stomach problems including peptic ulcers.	Psychologically and physically addictive

<http://hr.uoregon.edu/policy/drug-alcohol-risks.html>

Health Risks In Alcohol Abuse

By Michael Russell

University Standards of Conduct

Rule 30103, Section 1 of the *Rules and Regulations* of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System states:

Statutory Compliance. Every employee is expected to obey all federal, State, and local laws, and particularly [Texas Penal Code](#) Chapter 42 and Section 46.03 and *Texas Education Code* Section 51.935. Any employee who violates any provision of these statutes is subject to dismissal, notwithstanding any action by civil authorities on account of the violation.

Rule 50101, Section 2.1 of the *Rules and Regulations* of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System states:

Any student who engages in conduct that violates the Regents' Rules and Regulations, the U.T. System or institutional rules and regulations, specific instructions issued by an administrative official of the institution or the U.T. System acting in the course of his or her authorized duties, or federal, State, or local laws is subject to discipline whether such conduct takes place on or off campus or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Series 50101, Section 2.3 of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System states:

Any student who is guilty of the illegal use, possession and/or sale of a drug or narcotic on the campus of an institution is subject to discipline. If a student is found guilty of the illegal use, possession, and/or sale of a drug or narcotic on campus, the recommended penalty shall be suspension from the institution for a specified period of time and/or suspension of rights and privileges.

Additionally, the university as adopted a Standards of Conduct Guide which further describes the responsibilities of employees and students and may be accessed at http://legal.uth.tmc.edu/hoop/02/Standards_of_Conduct_Guide.htm.

University Penalties

Students and employees are subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion for conduct related to the use, possession, or distribution of drugs that are prohibited by state, federal, or local law. For more information on university penalties, refer to HOOP Policies 18.05 Substance Abuse in the Workplace (http://legal.uth.tmc.edu/hoop/18/18_05.html) and 18.06 Substance Abuse – Students (http://legal.uth.tmc.edu/hoop/18/18_06.html).

State & Federal Criminal Penalties

State and federal laws regarding the possession, use, and sale of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are strictly enforced by The University of Texas at Houston Police Department. Violators are subject to not only disciplinary action by the university but also criminal prosecution by law enforcement authorities, fines, and imprisonment.

Texas Statutes: Offense & Penalties under State Law

Driving while intoxicated (includes intoxication from alcohol, drugs, or both):

Minimum: A fine of not more than \$2,000 and confinement in jail for a term of not more than 180 days nor less than 72 hours

Maximum: A fine not to exceed \$10,000 and imprisonment for a term of not more than ten years nor less than two years

Public intoxication:

Minimum: A fine not to exceed \$500

Maximum: Varies with age and number of offenses

Purchase, possession, consumption of alcohol by a minor:

Minimum: A fine not to exceed \$500

Maximum: Varies with age and number of offenses

Purchase for or furnishing of alcohol to a minor:

A fine not to exceed \$4000 and/or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed one year

Possession of controlled substances (drugs):

Minimum: A fine not to exceed \$10,000 and confinement in jail for a term of not more than two years or less than 180 days

Maximum: A fine not to exceed \$250,000 and imprisonment for life or for a term of not more than 99 years nor less than fifteen years

Manufacture or delivery of controlled substances (drugs):

Minimum: A fine not to exceed \$10,000 and confinement in jail for a term of not more than two years or less than 180 days

Maximum: A fine not to exceed \$250,000 and imprisonment for life or for a term of not more than 99 years nor less than fifteen years

Possession of marijuana:

Minimum: A fine not to exceed \$2,000 and/or confinement in jail for a term of not more than 180 days

Maximum: A fine not to exceed \$250,000 and imprisonment for life or for a term of not more than 99 years nor less than five years

Delivery of marijuana:

Minimum: A fine not to exceed \$2,000 and/or confinement in jail for a term of not more than 180 days

Maximum: A fine not to exceed \$100,000 and imprisonment for life or for a term of not more than 99 nor less than ten years

Penalties shown above are based on language contained in applicable Texas statutes and are subject to change at any time by the Legislature and the Governor.

For more information on State statutes and penalties, click on the links below:

www.utexas.edu/student/vpsa/security/drugfree/penalties_texas.html
<http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/statutes/pe.toc.htm>

Federal Statutes: Offense & Penalties under Federal Law

Possession of drugs (including marijuana):

Minimum: A fine of not less than \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year

Maximum: A fine of not less than \$5,000 plus costs of investigation & prosecution and imprisonment for not more than 20 years nor less than five years

Manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of drugs (including marijuana):

Minimum: A fine of \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for up to three years

Maximum: A fine not to exceed \$8,000,000 for an individual (or \$20,000,000 if other than an individual) and imprisonment for life without release (no eligibility for parole)

Distribution of drugs to a person under 21 years of age

Minimum: Double the federal penalty for distribution of drugs

Maximum: Triple the federal penalty for distribution of drugs

The federal penalties quoted in these charts are based on language contained in the applicable federal statutes creating criminal offenses regarding controlled substances and are subject to change at any time by Congress and the President. There are additional factors in the federal sentencing guidelines, including various enhancement provisions for prior offenses. Title 21 U.S.C. Section 860 provides that the federal statutory penalties double (and in some cases triple) when a controlled substance is distributed (or even possessed with intent to distribute) within 1000 feet of a school or a public university.

For more information on federal penalties related to drug possession, manufacturing, distributing or dispensing refer to www.dea.gov/agency/penalties.htm.

Counseling and Treatment Options

The UT Counseling and WorkLife Program encourages individuals seeking treatment to pursue the least restrictive environment when seeking treatment for a substance abuse/dependence problem. UT Counseling and WorkLife Program will assess any person considering a substance abuse/dependence program and will make appropriate recommendations based on the students' or employees' insurance options and ability to pay for programming with private funds. Treatment options include detoxification, residential, partial-day hospitalization, intensive outpatient, supportive outpatient, chemical dependence education, and aftercare programming.

University options for drug treatment include:

Mental Science Institute

<http://msi.uth.tmc.edu/>

Harris County Psychiatric Center

<http://hcpc.uth.tmc.edu/>

UT Behavioral

<http://hcpc.uth.tmc.edu/services.htm>