

# DRUG, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO ABUSE

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Contacts: College Counseling & Resource Center  
Frese Hall, 1st floor – Reception Area, 718-997-5420

Health Service Center  
Frese Hall, 3rd floor, 718-997-2760

Human Resources Office  
Kiely Hall, Room 163, 718-997-4455

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101–226), the following program has been adopted and implemented at Queens College to prevent the illicit use of drugs and abuse of alcohol and tobacco by students and employees.

Students are expected to comply with the University’s Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order (the Henderson Rules), which are printed in the college’s *Undergraduate* and *Graduate Bulletins* and in Appendix A of this booklet.

## Standards of Conduct

The City University of New York is a caring community committed to promoting the physical, intellectual, social, and ethical development of all individuals. The inappropriate use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs threatens the health and safety of students, employees, their families, and the general public, and adversely impairs performance. In addition to promoting health, safety, and a positive learning and working environment, the City University is committed to preventing alcohol- and other drug-related problems among all members of the University community.

All members of the City University/Queens College community are expected to abide by the laws of the city, state, and federal government (Board of Trustees Bylaws, Article XV, Section 15.1). Queens College will not serve as a sanctuary, and cannot insulate its students, faculty, and staff from the consequences of illegal acts, including prosecution under the law.

*Illicit Drugs:* The legislature of the State of New York and federal statutes have made the possession, sale, or purchase of certain drugs without authorization a crime. The unlawful manufacture, possession, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of such drugs on City University/Queens College property or at City University/Queens College-sponsored activities is prohibited. Anyone determined to have violated this policy will be subject to the appropriate penalties. All members of the college community are expected to abide by the city, state, and federal statutes that have made the possession, sale, or purchase of illegal drugs a crime.

As a condition of employment, any employee of the City University/Queens College must notify his/her supervisor if he/she is convicted of a drug-related offense involving the workplace within five (5) days of conviction. Pursuant to

the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, 34 CFR §85.635, the University is then required to notify the appropriate granting or contracting federal agency within ten (10) days of receiving notice of any such conviction.

*Alcohol:* New York State law prohibits selling or giving alcohol to any “visibly intoxicated person.” Possession and consumption of alcohol are illegal under New York State law for those under 21 years of age. The unlawful manufacture, possession, distribution, dispensing, or use of alcohol on City University/Queens College property or at City University/Queens College-sponsored activities is prohibited. Anyone determined to have violated this policy will be subject to the appropriate penalties.

*Tobacco:* Smoking is prohibited in all college buildings and in the Student Union.

These standards of conduct and policies are consistent with the City University’s desire to promote health and safety and are in accordance with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101–226). City University/Queens College will continue their efforts to maintain an environment free from the unlawful possession, use, and distribution of alcohol and other drugs.

## Health Risks Associated with Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

*Illicit Drugs:* Numerous independent studies have documented the serious health consequences posed by the use of illicit drugs: addiction/dependence, physiological damage, and intellectual, psychological, or emotional breakdown. Altered perception and behavior under the influence of certain drugs can also cause accidents. The health hazards of specific drugs are listed in Appendix I of this booklet.

*Alcohol:* Alcohol (ethanol) is toxic to the human body. It is a central nervous system depressant that slows bodily functions such as heart rate, pulse, and respiration. Taken in large quantities, it progressively causes intoxication, sedation, and unconsciousness—and can lead to death. Alcoholics can consume large quantities of alcohol without appearing to be uncontrolled or drunk. Nevertheless, alcoholism causes severe emotional, physical, and psychological damage. Prolonged heavy drinking can damage various organs, resulting in disorders such as cirrhosis of the liver, heart disease, pancreatitis, and cancer. It can also lead to gastrointestinal irritation (nausea, diarrhea, gastritis, ulcers), malnutrition, sexual dysfunction, high blood pressure, lowered resistance to disease, and possible irreversible brain and nervous system damage. Alcoholism can also lead to a wide variety of problems involving one’s emotional, family, work, and social life.

*Tobacco:* The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the American Psychiatric Association, and the World Health Organization have determined that nicotine, the chief component of tobacco, is a highly addictive drug. Forty years ago, the first report of the U.S. Surgeon General was issued on the impact of tobacco use on health. This 1964 report presented stark conclusions: that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer and is the most significant cause of chronic bronchitis. The report specifically linked tobacco smoking with emphysema and other forms of cancer. The health hazards of tobacco use are now well documented and directly linked to the death of an estimated 390,000 Americans a year.

Recent studies have shown that mere exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is associated with the occurrence of many diseases, such as lung cancer and heart disease in nonsmokers and low birthrate in the offspring of nonsmokers. Because environmental tobacco smoke represents one of the strongest sources of indoor air contaminants in buildings where smoking is permitted, the City University has adopted a policy that prohibits smoking inside all University facilities (buildings). College presidents are free to impose a total ban on smoking on their grounds, or provide for limited smoking areas outside of buildings, a set distance from a building's entrance.

### **Counseling Services**

*Illicit Drugs and Alcohol:* If you are experiencing difficulty with alcohol or chemical dependency, Queens College can help you find counseling services or rehabilitation programs that will help you with your problem.

Students may be referred to the Vice President for Student Affairs (718-997-5500) or the College Counseling & Resource Center (718-997-5420) by members of the instructional staff or may seek assistance directly. The Vice President may take disciplinary action as required, or recommend that the student meet with a counselor for appropriate referral or assistance through self-help organizations or other outside intervention agencies. Serious health risks, documented by the medical community, accompany the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs.

Employees will, at the request of their supervisor, be asked to meet with a counselor. The counselor, after an interview, may recommend appropriate assistance through self-help organizations or other outside intervention such as

drug rehabilitation or employee assistance programs. Employees may also seek such assistance on their own.

*Tobacco:* The Health Service Center can provide help, referrals, or information about smoking cessation. In addition, activities are scheduled each November in conjunction with the "Great American Smoke-out" as well as smoking cessation workshops open to the campus community.

### **University/College Sanctions**

*Students:* As noted above, students are expected to comply with the University's Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order (the Henderson Rules), which are printed in the college's *Undergraduate* and *Graduate Bulletins* and in Appendix A of this booklet. Any student found in violation of these policies may be subject to disciplinary action. Sanctions may include admonition, warning, censure, disciplinary probation, restitution, suspension, expulsion, ejection, and arrest by civil authorities. The Vice President for Student Affairs may take disciplinary action or recommend that a student meet with a counselor for appropriate referral or assistance through self-help organizations or other outside intervention agencies. A member of the instructional staff may refer any student who appears to be experiencing difficulty with alcohol or illicit drugs to the Vice President or to the College Counseling & Resource Center. Students should be encouraged to seek assistance directly from the available resources when necessary.

*Faculty/Staff:* Employees found in violation of the University's standards of conduct noted above may be subject to penalties under the Henderson Rules (see Appendix A) and discipline under the provisions of their union contract. Sanctions that may be imposed in addition to those found in the various contracts include verified attendance and successful participation in a drug/alcohol assistance program.

### **Federal and State Sanctions for the Unlawful Use of Alcohol and Drugs**

*Illicit Drugs:* Both federal and New York State laws make it a criminal offense to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or simply possess a controlled substance, including marijuana (21 U.S.C. §801, *et seq.*; New York State Penal Law,

## **QUEENS IS SMOKE-FREE**



**Smoking is banned in all buildings throughout the  
City University of New York system.**

§§220, 221; New York State Public Health Law, §3306). The penalties imposed upon conviction for violation of these laws depend upon the particular offense and on aggravating factors such as the type and quantity of drugs in each offense. Sanctions range from monetary fines and community service to imprisonment (see Appendix I). Federal penalties are similar to those assessed by New York State. Note also the following important aspects of New York State statutes:

▲ In New York State, a gift of drugs, including marijuana, is treated as a sale.

▲ Appearing in public under the influence of narcotics or a drug other than alcohol to the degree that one may endanger oneself or other persons or property, or annoy persons in one's vicinity, is a violation, punishable by a fine and imprisonment up to 15 days. *New York State Penal Law §240.40*.

*Alcohol:* A variety of criminal penalties may result from the misuse of alcoholic beverages:

▲ In New York, if you give or sell an alcoholic beverage to a person less than 21 years old, you are committing a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 1 year in jail and a possible \$1,000 fine. *New York State Penal Law §260.20 (2)*.

▲ Any sale of any kind of alcoholic beverage without a license or permit is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine, a jail term, or both.

▲ If you are under the age of 21, you are prohibited from possessing alcoholic beverages with intent to consume them. Each violation is punishable by a \$50 fine. The beverages may also be seized and destroyed by appropriate internal or external authorities.

▲ You can be fined up to \$100 and required to perform community service if you are under 21 and present falsified proof when attempting to purchase alcoholic beverages, and you can have your driver's license suspended for up to 90 days if you use it to try to purchase alcohol illegally.

▲ Any person who operates a motor vehicle while intoxicated, or while his/her ability to operate such vehicle is impaired by the consumption of alcohol or drugs, is subject to suspension or revocation of driving privileges in the state, monetary fines up to \$1,000, and imprisonment up to one year. *New York State Vehicle Traffic Law §1192*.

*Tobacco:* Selling tobacco products to any person under the age of 18 is a Class B misdemeanor and punishable by imprisonment up to 3 months. *New York State Penal Law §260.21 (3)*.

▲ Note also that because exposure to environmental tobacco smoke has been identified as a health hazard to non-smokers, in 1994 the City University strengthened its own policy (see Appendix J) that prohibits smoking inside all University facilities (buildings).

These are only examples of the possible penalties for the illegal possession, use, and distribution of illicit drugs, alco-

holic beverages, and tobacco. You should also know that it is part of the City University's official policy to discourage violations of federal, state, and city laws. Where appropriate, the University will refer persons who violate such laws for prosecution to the relevant governmental authorities and will cooperate fully with such authorities.

### **Ineligibility for Federal Grants, Loans, or Assistance**

In general, pursuant to the 1998 Amendments to the Higher Education Act, a student who has been convicted of any offense under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance shall not be entitled to receive a federal grant, loan, or work assistance during the period beginning on the date of such conviction and ending after the interval specified below:

#### **Student Ineligibility\* for Federal Grants, Loans, or Work Assistance**

Offense	Ineligibility period for possession of a controlled substance	Ineligibility period for sale of a controlled substance
First conviction	1 year	2 years
Second conviction	2 years	Indefinite
Third conviction	Indefinite	

\*Eligibility may be resumed if drug rehabilitation specified under the terms of sentencing is completed.

### **Community-Based Services**

Alcoholics Anonymous  
718-520-5021

Al-Anon  
212-254-7230  
212-260-0407

Focus on Recovery  
800-234-1253

NYS Drug Information Hotline  
800-522-5353

Children of Alcoholics  
800-359-COAF (359-2623)

Stop Smoking Hotline  
800-ACS-2345 (227-2345)

Cocaine Hotline  
800-COCAINE (800-262-2463)

Marijuana Hotline  
888-MARIJUA (888-627-4582)

Heroin Hotline  
800-9 HEROIN (800-943-7646)

Relapse Hotline  
800-735-2773