

Lees-McRae College Report on the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

Introduction

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 (DFSCA) requires institutions of higher education to establish policies that address unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs. The DFSCA also requires the establishment of a drug and alcohol prevention program. All members of the Lees-McRae College community are encouraged to review the information in this report.

The publication of the DFSCA provides the campus community with information on standards of conduct, sanctions for violations, prevention programming, health risks associated with alcohol and drug use, and resources for the campus community. The purpose of this report is to outline Lees-McRae College's ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment free from alcohol and drug abuse.

Standards of Conduct

All students must adhere to policies and guidelines regarding the use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs that are contained within the Lees-McRae College Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. Students who violate the alcohol or drug policy will be charged under the Code of Conduct. If found responsible for their actions/decisions, students will receive an appropriate sanction. In addition, students may be referred to the proper law enforcement authorities for prosecution if necessary.

Introduction to Principles of Student Conduct and Violations of This Code

The primary way in which the Code of Student Conduct is violated is when a student acts in any way that is unbecoming a Lees-McRae student. That is, if the student acts in ways that are contrary to the Mission, the Honor Code, or the Policies and Procedures of this College. What follows are numerous examples of prohibited behavior that would exemplify conduct unbecoming a Lees-McRae student. Simple but not exhaustive definitions are attached to a list, again not exhaustive, of conduct violations. Other violations may arise that are not specifically listed here or that do not fit fully into the simple definitions attached. Such violations can and shall be addressed through the processes outlined in this Code.

Violations of Local, State, or Federal Law

Violation of local, state, or federal laws violates the Student Code of Student Conduct for members of the Lees-McRae community.

Alcohol, Tobacco, CBD-like Substance, and Drug Violations

Alcohol

In accord with the laws of the State of North Carolina, Lees-McRae will permit students who are of legal age (currently, 21 years or older) to consume alcohol in their residences and at college-sponsored events that are specifically designated as allowing alcohol consumption for those of legal age. No alcohol may be consumed by a Lees-McRae student who is not of legal age to consume alcohol. No one of legal age may provide those

under the legal age with alcohol. No one may of any age may consume alcohol on campus except as designated herein. Penalties for violations of this policy may be regarded additionally as violations of state law. Alcohol consumption will not excuse and may even result in more severe sanctions for other conduct violations related to that consumption. Provisions can be made, at the discretion of the College President, to designate one or more residential spaces as alcohol-free, in which case all possession, distribution, and consumption shall be prohibited.

Tobacco and CBD-like Substance

Lees-McRae is a smoke-free campus. The use, sale, or free distribution of tobacco or a CBD-like substance (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, electronic cigarettes, vaping, pipes, and chewing tobacco) on campus properties or at campus events is prohibited.

Illicit Drugs

Use, possession, or distribution of an illegal drug or substance, including medication not prescribed to an individual receiving and/or ingesting it, violates this Code. In the case of a non-marijuana, CBD-like substance, the student bears the responsibility for proving that the substance is not marijuana; otherwise, the CBD-like substance will be treated as if it were marijuana.

The following protocol is a guideline for conduct decisions regarding the sanctions and interventions that shall be imposed for student alcohol and drug violations once a finding of responsibility has occurred. The purpose of administering sanctions is to hold students accountable for their actions, ensure the safety and well-being of the Lees-McRae community, and facilitate learning. Students who violate the alcohol and/or drug policy will go through the college's conduct process. Students found responsible for violating the college's code of conduct may receive sanctions. Outcomes may vary and are determined on a case-by-case basis. Different instances of a violation of the student conduct policy rarely look the same, and so require detailed analysis and consideration when sanctioning. Sanctions may vary or accelerate based on the following circumstances:

- A student's past disciplinary record and history of past behavior, especially when that behavior is similar in nature
 - The length and time between violations may also be taken into consideration for the purpose of determining appropriate sanctions
- The potential for ongoing risk to the student, other individuals, or the community
- Evidence of distribution or sale of alcohol, marijuana, other drugs
- Threatening, violent, and/or destructive behavior while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Evidence of multiple violations (ex. Alcohol Use + Marijuana Possession)

Sanctions from Lees-McRae College include (but are not limited to):

- Verbal Warning - Students receive verbal warning outlining the consequences of further violations of campus and housing policies.
- Disciplinary Probation - Students may be placed on probation for any duration of time. This sanction may be given to students who have violated any Lees-McRae College Code of Student Conduct or Housing Policy, or students whose behavior does not meet the expectations of a Lees-McRae student, or who those have a history of repetitive offenses. Any further policy while on disciplinary probation will result in a conduct board hearing.
- Campus Work/Community Service - Students may be given campus work/community service at any level in the disciplinary process. The student must complete these hours and provide proof of this completion. If the student fails to complete the campus work/community service hours by the given deadline, he/she will be charged with Failure to Comply.
- Counseling Assessment - Students may be given an assessment session at any level in the disciplinary process. Students are responsible for initiating a meeting with a personal counselor by a given deadline. The personal counselor will assess the student and initiate a plan for the student to complete.
- Educational Seminar - Students may be assigned to complete an Alcohol or Decision-Making seminar. These seminars require students to engage with provided content and reflect on their learning.
- Drug Screening - A student who is found in violation of a drug or substance violation may be subject to random drug testing. The student will assume responsibility for the cost of this drug screening.
- Financial Restitution - A student whose behavior has caused damage to property, including but not limited to items like fire safety equipment, others' possessions, College property including residence hall rooms, hallways, bathrooms, and common may be required to make financial restitution for these damages or face removal from the Lees-McRae community.
- Parental Notification - Under certain circumstances, such as violations in which a student's safety is at risk or a student is being removed from campus, parents may be notified of their student's disciplinary violations.
- Interim Removal from Campus - A student may be removed from campus should a college assessment team (e.g., a Threat Assessment Team) determine that the student's presence on the College's premises or at a college-related activity poses a significant risk of harm to the safety or security of the Lees-McRae community or its property. This removal can be appealed and can also be reversed upon the final disposition of a Conduct Board Hearing or with permission from the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.
- Suspension - Following a Conduct Hearing Panel determination, a student may be suspended from Lees-McRae College based on the nature and severity of the violation. A suspended student must leave the College premises within 24 hours of the time in which the sanction is given unless other provisions are approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee. The student may not return to

campus absent permission from the Vice President for Student Affairs and/or designee.

- **Expulsion** - Following a Conduct Hearing Panel determination, a student may be expelled (permanently removed) from Lees-McRae College based on the nature and severity of the violation. An expelled student must leave the College premises within 24 hours of the time in which the sanction is given unless other provisions are approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee. The student may not return to campus.
- **Other Possible Sanctions** - Other possible and appropriate sanctions may be imposed.

In addition to the sanctions set forth above, students are required to abide by local, state, and federal laws governing the consumption, sale, or possession of alcohol and other drugs.

Health Risks

Specific serious health risks are associated with the use of alcohol and illicit drugs. Some of the major risks are listed below.

- **Alcohol**
 - Possible Effects: impaired judgment and coordination, increased aggression at low to moderate doses, severe impairment of higher mental functions at moderate to high doses, fatal consequences at exceedingly high doses
 - Effects of Overdose: dependence and withdrawal symptoms (anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, convulsions), long-term damage to vital organs (brain, heart, pancreas, liver), linked to cardiomyopathy, stroke, high blood pressure, fibrosis, cirrhosis, pancreatitis, and cancer
 - Withdrawal Syndrome: anxiety, tremors, nausea, vomiting, hallucinations, irritability, and convulsions
- **Cannabis (Marijuana)**
 - Possible Effects: euphoria, relaxed or lowered inhibitions, increased heart rate and appetite; impaired reaction time, coordination, concentration and memory, and time distortion; lack of energy; drowsiness
 - Effects of Overdose: paranoia, increased anxiety and depression, increased odds of developing psychotic disorders
 - Withdrawal Syndrome: insomnia, hyperactivity, irritability or mood swings, decreased appetite
- **Depressants**
 - Examples: Barbiturates (such as Nembutal, Amobarbital, Phenobarbital), Benzodiazepines (such as Valium, Xanax, Halcion, Ativan, Klonopin), Quaalude, Sopor, GHB, Alcohol

- Possible Effects: lower inhibitions, drowsiness, confusion, impaired judgment, loss of motor coordination, nausea, depressed central nervous system
 - Effects of Overdose: slurred speech, slowed breathing, cool and clammy skin, coma, and possible death
 - Withdrawal Syndrome: anxiety, agitation, insomnia, tremors, delirium, seizures, withdrawal syndrome can become a medical emergency and result in possible death
- Hallucinogens
 - Examples: LSD, Psilocybin (Mushrooms), Peyote (Mescaline), DMT, PCP, Ketamine, Salvia
 - Possible Effects: illusions or hallucinations, increased blood pressure, breathing, and body temperature, intensified sensory experiences and emotions, lack of coordination, confusion, impaired or loss of memory, altered sense of reality, perception of time and depth
 - Effects of Overdose: Paranoia, psychosis, anxiety, depression, persistent psychosis/flashbacks, overdoses can lead to seizures, difficulty breathing, coma, and death
 - Withdrawal Syndrome: no information reported
- Inhalants
 - Examples: Gasoline, Airplane Glue, Paint Thinner, Dry-Cleaning Fluid, Nitrous Oxide, Amyl Nitrate, Butyl Nitrate, aerosols (whippets)
 - Possible Effects: euphoria, lightheaded or dizziness, slurred or distorted speech, poor motor coordination, impaired vision, memory, organ failure, and muscular damage
 - Effects of Overdose: seizures, coma, or death due to asphyxiation
 - Withdrawal Syndrome: nausea, loss of appetite, insomnia, irritability, and mood swings, sweating
- Narcotics/Opioids
 - Examples: Demerol, Dilaudid, Vicodin, Percocet, OxyContin, Methadone, Percodan, Codeine, Morphine, Heroin, Fentanyl
 - Possible Effects: euphoria, drowsiness, lethargy, nausea, constipation, slowed breathing, impaired memory and perception
 - Effects of Overdose: slow breathing, cool or clammy skin, seizures, coma, or death
 - Withdrawal Syndrome: watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, sweating, irritability, hyperactivity, nausea, vomiting, chills, severe depression, cravings
- Steroids
 - Examples: Testosterone, Parabolin, Winstrol, Anadrol, Sustanon, Equipoise

- Possible Effects: physical changes to the body that may be permanent, muscle growth, extreme mood swings, agitation, hostility, high cholesterol
- Effects of Overdose: Liver damage and stomach bleeding
- Withdrawal Syndrome: severe depression, outbursts of anger, irritability, impotence
- Stimulants
 - Examples: Amphetamine, Dextro-Amphetamine, Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta, Nicotine, Cocaine, Methamphetamine
 - Possible Effects: increased alertness, excitement, euphoria, increased blood pressure, breathing and heart rate, restlessness, anxiety, nervousness, irritability, mood swings, restlessness, insomnia, anxiety, loss of appetite
 - Effects of Overdose: agitation, increase in body temperature, hallucinations, seizure, or death
 - Withdrawal Syndrome: insomnia, fatigue, depression

Prevention Programs and Enforcement

A variety of resources exist for alcohol and other drug prevention including education, programming, counseling, and referral. Lees-McRae College explains the policies and procedures during orientation events, move-in, and during the academic year with programs and initiatives aimed at preventing alcohol and drug abuse among students. This could include:

- First-year student orientation programs on alcohol and drug awareness.
- Educational workshops or seminars on topics like responsible drinking, drug safety, and addiction prevention.
- Peer wellness education programs involving trained students.
- Social media campaigns and informational resources distributed to students.

Students may contact the Office of Student Affairs for student conduct, medical services, and mental health counseling.

Online resources, education, and training

- Alcoholics Anonymous: 1-212-870-3400 or <https://aa.org>
- Narcotics Anonymous: 1-818-773-9999 or www.na.org
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE or www.thehotline.org
- National Drug Helpline: 1-844-289-0879 or <http://drughelpline.org/>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse/Treatment Hotline: 301-443-1124 or www.drugabuse.gov/nidahome.html
- National Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline: 1-800-662-4347 or <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

The Director of Student Conduct and Engagement, Senior Director of Residence Life, Assistant Director of Residence Life, Resident Assistants, and the Vice President for Student Affairs enforces policies and procedures and provides students with resources necessary to resolve personal disputes. The Lees-McRae College Police Department enforce laws related to alcohol and drugs.

For additional information, contact the Director of Student Conduct and Engagement and/or the Vice President for Student Affairs via email at StudentAffairs@lmc.edu.

Lees-McRae College is committed to fair and consistent enforcement of the alcohol and drug policy. The college will respond to all instances of violations of the alcohol and drug policy.

Conclusion

Lees-McRae College cares about students' health, safety and academic success and has a long-standing commitment to proactively addressing high-risk drinking and substance abuse. The illegal abuse of alcohol or other drugs by students interferes with the academic learning process and places the safety of individuals and the college community at risk. The goal of Lees-McRae's alcohol and drug education and policy enforcement is to improve academic success and the quality of student life on the campus by increasing healthy lifestyles and reducing the harm associated with alcohol and other drug use.