



**Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)**  
(Revised 2008)

The abuse of alcohol and the use of illegal drugs by members of the Waycross College community is incompatible with the goals of the institution. In order to further the College's commitment to provide a healthy and productive educational environment, and in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, the College has established the following policy on alcohol and other drugs (AOD):

**Student Misconduct**

Waycross College, in compliance with the Board of Regents' Policy (406.03), Georgia Law and the Drug Free Post-Secondary Education Act of 1990 maintains that it is the responsibility of each student and student organization to adhere to institutional policy and procedure when dealing with alcohol and other drugs. Without a valid medical or dental prescription, the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, or use of marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs, controlled by Federal or Georgia Law is prohibited.

**Sanctions**

Any student suspected of use or possession of AODs on college property or off campus while in attendance of a college sponsored event will be reported to the proper authorities and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Students convicted of a misdemeanor or tested positively for drugs will be in violation of institutional policy and charged, in writing, through the Student Services Office, within five days. Students or organizations charged with violating the institution's AOD policy shall be afforded due process of their case according to the constitutional requirements outlined under Disciplinary Procedures in the *Student Handbook*. Students seeking a hearing will refer to Article 3B.

Sanctions for violations of these student conduct regulations may include alcohol and/or other drug education, mandated evaluation and treatment, community service, suspension, and/or or expulsion.

Students convicted of a misdemeanor or tested positively for drug use will forfeit all financial aid at the point of positive evidence indicating drug use.

Students and organizations have the right to waive their hearings with the Judicial Committee, admit guilt, and accept punitive measures designed to educate, counsel, and rehabilitate each student and/or organization involved with the violation.

Students convicted of a misdemeanor for testing positive for drugs, who decide to waive the judicial hearing, accept the following administrative sanctions:

1. Disciplinary Probation for the remainder of the term enrolled plus the next subsequent term of enrollment.
2. Loss of all financial assistance (Federal, State, and Institutional).
3. Loss of campus employment.
4. Loss of participation in all campus activities, i.e., Intramural, co-curricular and non-academic activities.
5. Referred to an off-campus agency for professional counseling, treatment, and/or therapy.
6. Record of administrative sanctions and counseling reports are maintained and kept on file in the Student Services Office.

For removal of administrative sanctions and disciplinary probation, students must show progress in their professional counseling. If at the end of their probationary period satisfactory progress is not indicated in writing from the professional agency, the student is subject to suspension.

Disciplinary sanctions for students convicted of a felony offense involving the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, or use of marijuana, controlled substances or other illegal or dangerous drugs, shall include the forfeiture of academic credit and the temporary or permanent suspension or expulsion from the institution. All sanctions imposed by the institution shall be subject to review procedures authorized by the Board of Regents (Article IX of the Bylaws).

### **Criminal Sanctions**

Under Georgia and federal law, it is a crime to possess, manufacture, sell, or distribute illegal drugs. As required by federal regulations, you may view charts detailing [federal penalties for marijuana trafficking](#), [federal penalties for drug trafficking](#), and the [state drug law summary](#).

Federal sanctions for the illegal possession of drugs include imprisonment up to 1 year and/or a minimum fine of \$1,000 for a first conviction; imprisonment for 15 days-2 years and a minimum fine of \$2,500 for a second drug conviction; and imprisonment for 90 days-3 years and a minimum fine of \$5,000 for a third or subsequent drug conviction. For possession of a mixture or substance which contains a cocaine base, federal sanctions include 5-20 years in prison and a minimum fine of \$1,000, for a first conviction if the mixture or substance exceeds 5 grams, for a second conviction if the mixture or substance exceeds 3 grams, and for a third or subsequent conviction if the mixture or substance exceeds 1 gram. Additional possible penalties for the illegal possession of drugs are forfeiture of real or personal property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance if the offense is punishable by more than 1 year imprisonment; forfeiture of vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other conveyance used, or intended for use, to transport or conceal drugs; civil fine up to \$10,000 per violation; denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses for up to 1 year for a first and up to 5 years for a second or subsequent offense; successful completion of a drug treatment program; community service; and ineligibility to receive or purchase a firearm.

Georgia law prohibits the purchase or possession of alcohol by a person under the age of 21, or the furnishing of alcohol to such a person. Driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs also is illegal. It is against Georgia law, under certain circumstances, to walk or be upon a roadway while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The punishment for these offenses may include imprisonment, payment of a fine, mandatory treatment and education programs, community service, and mandatory loss of one's driver's licenses.

### **Treatment Options**

A variety of counseling services and treatment centers is available throughout the state for anyone experiencing problems related to substance abuse. Although most counseling and treatment centers charge for their services, some programs are free of charge. Faculty, staff, and students should avail themselves of the following referral sources to identify the services or programs which most closely meet their specific needs:

<http://www.soberrecovery.com/links/georgiatreatmentcenters.html>

<http://www.drug-rehab.ca/Georgia-drug-rehab.htm>

<http://focusbytheseahospital.com/>

<http://www.soberrecovery.com/links/georgiatreatmentcenters.html>

## **Health Risks**

The following information on health risks is from *What Works: Schools Without Drugs*, U. S. Department of Education (1992):

Alcohol consumption causes a number of 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. Alcohol withdrawal can be life-threatening. 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.