

DRUG POLICY

The Mount Saint Mary's University Drug Policy prohibited the following on campus, at University sponsored events, and in campus operated residences:

- Possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs (including marijuana and medical marijuana and inappropriate use of prescription medication).
- Unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of controlled substances.
- Possession of unauthorized drug paraphernalia, including but not limited to: water pipes, scales, needles, clips, rolling papers, bong; any device that may be associated with unlawful drug use, regardless of whether it is purchased or handmade.

As a private institution, Mount Saint Mary's University prohibits marijuana use, distribution or storage on its campus, premises or at university sponsored events. Individuals found in possession of, using, or under the influence of marijuana will be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Conduct Code.

Health Effects of Alcohol and Drug Use

The University affirms that illegal drug use is harmful and detrimental to the educational objectives of the University. The illegal use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students could result in cognitive deficits and other health and safety risks. These risks include an increased incidence of accidents, personal injuries and, in some cases, death.

Warning Signs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

The use and abuse of alcohol and drugs are serious issues that should not be ignored or minimized, and we should not sit back and hope they just go away. If left untreated, use and abuse can develop into drug dependence or alcoholism. As a result, it is important to recognize the signs and symptoms of alcohol and drug abuse early. If you're worried that a friend or family member might be abusing alcohol or drugs, here are some of the warning signs to look for:

Physical and health warning signs of drug abuse

- Eyes that are bloodshot or pupils that are smaller or larger than normal.
- Frequent nosebleeds could be related to snorted drugs (meth or cocaine).
- Changes in appetite or sleep patterns.
- Sudden weight loss or weight gain.
- Seizures without a history of epilepsy.
- Deterioration in personal grooming or physical appearance.
- Injuries/accidents and they won't or can't tell you how they got hurt.
- Unusual smells on breath, body, or clothing.
- Shakes, tremors, incoherent or slurred speech, impaired or unstable coordination.

Behavioral signs of alcohol or drug abuse

- Drop in attendance and performance at work or school; loss of interest in extracurricular activities, hobbies, sports or exercise; decreased motivation.
- Complaints from co-workers, supervisors, teachers or classmates.
- Unusual or unexplained need for money or financial problems; borrowing or stealing; missing money or valuables.
- Silent, withdrawn, engaging in secretive or suspicious behaviors.
- Sudden change in relationships, friends, favorite hangouts, and hobbies.
- Frequently getting into trouble (arguments, fights, accidents, illegal activities).

- Psychological warning signs of alcohol or drug abuse
- Unexplained change in personality or attitude.
- Sudden mood changes, irritability, angry outbursts or laughing at nothing.
- Periods of unusual hyperactivity or agitation.
- Lack of motivation; inability to focus, appears lethargic or “spaced out.”
- Appears fearful, withdrawn, anxious, or paranoid, with no apparent reason.

Referral Information

The Student Life Team is available for all students who seek information, resources and support regarding drug and alcohol use. All students may obtain confidential health care and counseling through Health Services. Students are encouraged to seek assistance and/or support for themselves and others through any of the following resources:

- Student Life Team @msmu.edu deanofstudentlife@msmu.edu or 310.954.4130
- Health Services 310.954.4110 or 213.477.2685
- Counseling and Psychological Services 310.954.4114 or 213.477.2668
- MSMU-CPS 24/7 Crisis Line 310.954.4CPS or 310.954.4277
- Alcoholics Anonymous <http://www.aa.org>
- Los Angeles Addiction Treatment Centers 877.345.3281
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/>