



University of Pittsburgh

Division of Student Affairs

738 William Pitt Union
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260
412-648-1006

Dear Pitt Students,

I am happy to welcome you to the 2016-2017 academic year! Each Fall, our campus is energized by the spirit of our returning students and the promise of our incoming class—and this year is no different. Our campus will continue to be enriched by your unique talents and perspectives. In turn, our job is to support a college experience that enables you to realize your immense potential. It is our hope that when you arrive on campus, you find a community that is welcoming and inclusive—a community that fosters personal growth, values and celebrates diversity, and, above all, prioritizes the well-being of all of its members. All members of our Pitt community are guided by the [Pitt Promise](#), which reflects our commitment to treating one another with dignity and respect.

As students, you are called upon to assist us in upholding these values. To do so, it is imperative that you are fully aware of our expectations of you. Because we want to position you for success, we have clearly outlined all behavioral expectations in the [Student Code of Conduct](#). As a Pitt student, it is your responsibility to fully understand the Code, and to be mindful of the potential repercussions of any violations. We are committed to providing a healthy environment for you to grow and mature; accordingly, the University remains committed to providing a drug-free environment for our students, faculty and staff. Consistent with this commitment, the University has established a Drug-Free School Policy, which is enclosed for your review.

Having a strong working understanding of University policies will go a long way toward ensuring that you enjoy a successful college career. However, it's also critical that you have an understanding of the expectations that come with being in a community of scholars. Pitt, like any institution of higher learning, is a marketplace of ideas—including ideas that, at times, are controversial and polarizing. In fact, we welcome such diversity of thought and perspective because we know that students cannot learn—and they certainly cannot grow—if they listen only to people whose viewpoints reflect their own. That's why, as a college student, you are encouraged to engage with and expected to show respect for people who may have beliefs or ideas that differ from your own. While you may feel uncomfortable in the moment, we know that engaging in such a way will help to build your character and enhance your perspective.

As we embark on our Year of Diversity, I invite you to [watch this video](#) from last week's Building a Pitt Community program, and look for opportunities to engage in Year of diversity programs during the upcoming year.

Your college career will be one of the most exciting times of your life. You are on the cusp of discovering who you are and who you want to be. Our job is to help you get there—and we look forward to the journey ahead. Have a great year, and hail to Pitt!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenyon R. Bonner".

Kenyon R. Bonner
Vice Provost and Dean of Students

University of Pittsburgh Drug-Free Schools Policy

To implement its commitment to provide a drug-free environment for its students, faculty, and staff, the University of Pittsburgh has established the following policy. The University of Pittsburgh prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance on University property or as part of any University activity. Faculty, staff, and students of the University must also comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the possession and consumption of alcohol and other drugs. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action within 30 days, including, but not limited to, a warning, written reprimand, fines, suspension, dismissal, expulsion, and/or mandatory participation and successful completion of a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved by an appropriate health or law enforcement agency. Any University employee paid from federally funded grants or contracts, or any student participating in any federally funded or guaranteed Student Loan Program, must notify the University of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation **occurring at the University or while engaged in University activities**. Federal student aid eligibility may be forfeited due to certain drug convictions. Under its drug-free awareness program, the University will distribute literature informing employees and students of the dangers of drug abuse, and provide information on available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and penalties that may be imposed for violation of this policy. All University students will be given a copy of the Drug-Free Schools policy annually. A biennial review of the University's program will be conducted to determine the program's effectiveness and to ensure that the sanctions against those who violate the policy are consistently enforced. The secretary of education and members of the general public must be provided with a copy of this policy and the results of the biennial review upon request, by the associate vice chancellor for human resources.

Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act requires that, as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, an institution of higher education, state educational agency, or local educational agency must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. As set forth in the statute, the University of Pittsburgh's program is required to provide at a minimum:

- a. An annual distribution, in writing, to each employee and student (regardless of the length of the student's program of study), including:
 - i. Standards of conduct that clearly prohibit, at a minimum, possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on its property or as part of any of its activities
 - ii. A description of applicable legal sanctions under local, state, or federal law
 - iii. A description of health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol
 - iv. A description of available drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation or re-entry programs
 - v. A clear statement of the disciplinary sanctions that the University will impose on students and employees
- b. A biennial review by the University of its program to determine its effectiveness, implement needed changes, and ensure that disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

Social Impact

Substance abuse is a major social and medical problem in the United States. It is known that serious consequences result from substance abuse. Abusers create problems for themselves and also indirectly for employers, co-workers, classmates, family, and society in general. Substance abuse problems can develop in men and women of all ages, races, and occupations and can have long-reaching effects.

Alcohol is the drug used most commonly by Americans. In recent household surveys, about 50 percent of all persons aged twelve or older reported alcohol use in the past month. Approximately 10 percent of all drinkers are currently problem drinkers.

Media accounts often draw considerable attention to alcohol and other drug use on college campuses. However, according to our own campus surveys, most Pitt students drink in low risk ways or not at all. Fewer than 5 percent of Pitt students use tobacco products on a daily basis. For students who are experiencing substance abuse-related problems, the University has available a variety of support services.

Health Effects

Drinking alcohol contributes to health problems including diseases of the liver, digestive tract, and respiratory, nervous, and cardiovascular systems. In addition, accidents and violence are highly correlated with alcohol and drug use and abuse. Adverse consequences of drug abuse include the increased risk of morbidity and diseases such as hepatitis and AIDS, as well as the potential for developing drug dependency. There are also well-publicized health risks associated with tobacco use, particularly cancer and heart disease. Among students, problems also can arise from inexperience and lack of control, and substance use can lead to academic problems, injuries, campus crime, legal problems, fights, and interpersonal problems.

In addition to complying with state and federal statutes and regulations, the University has a desire to identify and control, to the extent possible, environmental factors that influence the health and safety of members of the academic community. These environmental factors include the minimization of problems related to alcohol and other drug use.

Prevention and Education

The University, through its academic and student support centers, will distribute literature informing students of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse within and outside the campus community, and provide information on sanctions that may be imposed for violation of this policy. The University, through its employment centers, will distribute literature informing employees of the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, and provide information on available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs.

Students should be aware of the rules and regulations outlined in the *University of Pittsburgh Student Code of Conduct* regarding alcohol and drugs. Sanctions for violation of this policy range from attendance at the Personal Education, Assistance, and Referral Program or Marijuana 101 program to disciplinary dismissal.

The applicable legal sanctions under federal, state, and/or local laws include, but are not limited to, a monetary fine, suspension of motor vehicle operating privileges, imprisonment, community service, counseling/treatment, or completion of a mandatory education program.

Alcohol and other drug problems on the University of Pittsburgh campus are addressed through three levels of prevention programming: primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention.

Primary prevention will be directed toward all individuals whether or not they have chosen to use illicit drugs or alcohol. Recognizing that most students reach 21 years of age during their college experience, the University's educational program incorporates material on responsible decision-making that addresses alcohol and other lifestyle choices. Program efforts are directed toward creating a supportive campus environment that reinforces non-use of illicit drugs and the responsible, legal use of alcohol. Ideally, these program efforts prevent individuals from ever abusing alcohol or other drugs.

Secondary prevention is the programming designed to identify and assist individuals considered at high risk for developing alcohol or other drug problems. Individuals who exhibit some level of problematic alcohol or other drug use, or who come from a family afflicted with substance abuse, would be suitable targets for intervention activities.

Tertiary prevention will be aimed at individuals who already have been treated for substance abuse and who are in recovery. Program activities should assist these members of the University community in preventing relapse and maintaining their recovery on campus.

Several departments throughout the University support these educational efforts, through program or curriculum development.

Program Administration

For further information regarding the Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free Schools Policy contact:

University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh Campus

Office of Human Resources 412-624-8030

Office of Student Affairs 412-648-1006

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

Office of Human Resources 814-362-7531

Office of Student Affairs 814-362-7651

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Office of Human Resources 724-836-9902

Office of Student Services 724-836-9916

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Office of Human Resources 814-269-7030

Office of Student Life 814-269-7065

University of Pittsburgh at Titusville

Office of Human Resources 814-827-4422

Office of Student Affairs 814-827-4460

Information and Assistance for Alcohol or Drug Abuse -- Pittsburgh Campus

An important step in overcoming any problem is to know where to turn for assistance. Information, counseling, and treatment for alcohol or drug problems are available through resources in the community and costs may be covered by health care benefits. Some of the resources include:

Student Health Service
Mark A. Nordenberg Hall, Suite 119
111 University Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-383-1800

University Counseling Center
Mark A. Nordenberg Hall, Suite 119
111 University Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-648-7930
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
Center for Psychiatric and Chemical Dependency Services
Oxford Building, Suite 900
3501 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-246-5910

Gateway Rehabilitation Center
Moffett Run Road
Aliquippa, PA 15001
412-766-8700

Student Health Service • Wellness Center, 119 Mark A. Nordenberg Hall

The Office of Health Education and Promotion of the Student Health Service offers a variety of services to enhance personal and community health along with informative materials that encourage healthy lifestyles. The harm that often results from substance abuse is of great concern to our campus community; therefore, many prevention and intervention programs are available to students throughout their college years. In addition to the educational programs provided to Freshman Studies classes, fraternities and sororities, and other campus groups, an educational intervention program, Personal Education, Assistance and Referral (PEAR) and Marijuana 101, are offered to students.

The PEAR program and Marijuana 101 are designed to reduce the problems associated with alcohol and other drug abuse among students. Although any student may attend the PEAR program and Marijuana 101, most students are referred to the program as one of the sanctions for violating the University alcohol and other drug policies. PEAR and Marijuana 101 are a 3-week class and includes the completion of educational modules and an individual assessment with the instructor. The program coordinator can be reached at 412-383-1830. Additional information about the PEAR and Marijuana courses can be found by visiting the Office of Health Education and Promotion's Web site www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/education.

Counseling Center • Wellness Center, 119 Mark A. Nordenberg Hall

Mental health professionals are available to help students with any personal problems or concerns. People come to the center for a wide variety of reasons: personal problems involving relations with parents or peers, emotional or social difficulties, marital conflicts, concerns about academic progress, etc. A certified drug and alcohol counselor is on staff and psychiatric consultation is also available. Confidentiality is strictly maintained.

The center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and Monday and Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. During the summer semester, the center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is no charge for counseling services.

For information or appointments, call 412-648-7930 or visit the Wellness Center, 119 Mark A. Nordenberg Hall.

Note: Students/Employees at regional campuses who desire referral should contact the appropriate office listed under "Program Administration."

Commonly Cited City of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania Law Violations

Public Intoxication: When an individual appears in any public place under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

Providing Alcohol to Minors: When an individual purchases or serves alcohol to those under the age of 21.

Underage alcohol possession/consumption: When an individual, being less than 21 years of age, attempts to purchase, purchases, consumes, possesses, or knowingly and intentionally transports any liquor or malt or brewed beverages.

Open Container of Alcohol: No persons shall consume, carry or possess an open container of alcoholic beverages in the public right-of-way or on private property without the consent of the landowner or tenant.

Carrying a False Id Card: An individual, being under 21, possesses an identification card falsely identifying that person as being 21 years of age or older or obtains or attempts to obtain liquor or malt or brewed beverages by using the identification card of another or by using an identification card that has not been lawfully issued to or in the name of that person who possesses the card.

Possession of Marijuana: When an individual has possession of marijuana, the sentence is dependent on the amount of marijuana in possession.

Sale, Distribution And/Or Cultivation Of Marijuana: When an individual is accused of selling or manufacturing of marijuana; the potential sentence depends of the amount of marijuana in question.

Some Potential Local and/or State Alcohol and Drug Penalties

| <u>Violation</u> | <u>Imprisonment (1st Offense)</u> | <u>Fine/Sanction (1st Offense)</u> |
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| Underage drinking or possession of alcohol | 0 to 90 days | Suspension of driver's license and/or up to \$500 |
| Fake IDs used to obtain alcohol | 0 to 90 days | Suspension of driver's license and/or up to \$500 |
| Marijuana possession 30 grams or less | 30 days | \$500 |
| Marijuana possession over 30 grams | up to 1 year | \$5000 |
| Manufacturing or selling marijuana and other controlled substances | 1 to 10 years | \$5,000 to undefined monetary fine |