

Drug and Alcohol Conduct Guidelines for All MTI Students

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It is the goal of Mitchell Technical Institute to provide a drug and alcohol-free environment. MTI students shall not be involved with the use, possession, or sale of drugs, alcohol, or any controlled substances in any manner that may impair any person's ability to perform assigned tasks or otherwise adversely impact their behavior. MTI does not endorse or sponsor alcoholic beverages at any campus or school-related event where students are present. Furthermore, no student shall possess alcoholic beverages in the workplace, classroom, laboratory, vehicle, or at any intramural sports event, class trip, or campus function or consume beverages in association with said places during working, classroom, laboratory, or vehicle operating hours or at any time prior to performing safety-sensitive functions which may impair that person's ability to perform their duties. (See also Policy MTI 1035.)

These guidelines will be interpreted, administered, and amended by MTI as necessary within its discretion.

Reasonable Suspicion

MTI practices zero tolerance for drug or alcohol use by students while in classrooms, labs, or safety-sensitive areas. When an instructor, supervisor or administrator observes a student with behavior or an appearance that is characteristic of alcohol or drug use, the student will be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing. The student will be immediately suspended from school until test results are received. ***The Institute is responsible for the cost of this test.***

Positive Test Results

A student with a positive test result will meet with the Dean of Student Success or designee to determine disciplinary and treatment options that the student must follow in order to be reinstated into school. MTI's intent is to establish a positive environment in which these problems can be addressed locally in a helpful and supportive rather than a punitive way.

If a student tests positive for alcohol (0.02 or higher), the student will be removed from classes and taken home. A breath alcohol test administered the following day must be considered negative for alcohol concentration before the student may return to classes. If a student tests positive for alcohol in a subsequent follow-up test, the student will be referred to a substance abuse professional (SAP) and must complete a prescribed treatment plan and follow-up testing in order to remain enrolled at MTI. The student can continue to attend classes until such time as they can meet with the SAP as long as they test negative on alcohol tests that will be administered daily. ***The student is responsible for the cost of the initial referral to a SAP. The student will be responsible for the cost of any follow-up counseling or treatment and any follow-up drug testing.***

If a student tests positive for drug use, the student will be immediately suspended from school while the results are reviewed. All positive tests for drug use (refusal to submit to a test or an altered specimen is considered a positive test result) will be reviewed by a medical review officer who is a licensed physician with knowledge of substance abuse disorders. The medical review officer will interpret and evaluate the results of each test, along with relevant medical information about each student, to determine whether or not a positive test resulted. The medical review officer will contact the student whose test is positive or whose test has been altered or refused. MTI will also be contacted by the medical review officer.

Based on the medical review officer's review of a positive drug test, the student will be required to meet with a substance abuse professional (SAP) to determine the counseling or treatment plan the student must follow to remain enrolled at MTI. The student would also be subject to unannounced follow-up testing as determined by the SAP in order to remain in classes. ***The student is responsible for the cost of the initial referral to a SAP. The student will be responsible for the cost of any follow-up counseling or treatment and any follow-up drug testing.***

Community Alcohol and Drug Resources

Stepping Stones

901 S. Miller
Mitchell, SD 57301
605-995-8180

AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

424 E. 9th St
Mitchell, SD 57301
605-996-8264

Dakota Counseling Institute

910 W. Havens
Mitchell, SD 57301
605-996-9686

Lutheran Social Services

411 N. Duff
Mitchell, SD 57301
1-800-568-2401

Women's Health Services

1420 N. Main
Mitchell, SD 57301
605-995-8040

Mitchell School District Policy #1035 Drug-free Campus

PHILOSOPHY

Student and employee safety is a paramount concern to Mitchell Technical Institute, the Mitchell School District No. 17-2, and the Board of Education. Alcohol and drug dependency is an illness and a hazard that interferes with the ability to learn and function responsibly in the school setting and community. Persons abusing controlled substances or under the influence of mood-altering or psycho-active chemicals are a serious risk to themselves and to others. MTI recognizes that chemical abuse (drug and alcohol) has become a serious problem in our country. Substance abuse problems are the responsibility of the individual, home, and community, with the schools sharing in that responsibility. We accept our obligation to establish a positive environment in which these problems can be addressed locally in a helpful and supportive rather than a punitive way. The intent of this policy is to promote healthy living through awareness, prevention, dependency education, and intervention.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

It is the policy of Mitchell Technical Institute that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, use, or being under the influence of a controlled substance on property of MTI or while a student of MTI is engaged in an activity assigned as part of his/her involvement with MTI is prohibited unless said controlled substance is used as prescribed by a doctor.

Students convicted of the possession of illegal drugs while receiving Title IV financial aid may have their financial aid suspended for one year. If a student is convicted of selling drugs, they may have their financial aid eligibility suspended for two years. Additional convictions will add at least two years to the above suspensions.

PREVENTION

The objective of prevention is to promote the personal and social growth of individuals in order to avoid drug and alcohol related problems. Serious health risks are associated with abusers of drugs and alcohol. Heavy alcohol consumption can produce major, irreversible damage to the brain, heart, central nervous system, liver, and other body systems, and may cause intellectual disabilities, birth defects, and reduced weight to offspring of pregnant women. Some of the effects of commonly abused drugs include skin disorders, malnutrition, ulcers, brain damage, life-threatening infections and diseases, hallucinations, visual disturbances, convulsions, delirium, coma, speech and muscle impairment, violent behavior, loss of concentration and memory, nausea, constipation, increase in pulse rate, damage to liver, kidneys, blood and bone marrow, and death.

MTI's drug prevention program includes annual distribution of this policy to all enrolled students; educating students on the health risks and legal sanctions associated with abuse of alcohol and drugs; and outlining clear procedures in the MTI Student Handbook on how MTI will handle suspected incidences of violations to this policy.

Students are encouraged to seek assistance for substance abuse problems. Students can be assured that voluntarily seeking assistance for these problems will not jeopardize the student's status in school and will be handled in a professional manner, and confidentiality will be protected to the full extent permitted by law.

INTERVENTION PROCEDURES

The student who violates this policy will be referred to the administration of Mitchell Technical Institute. The student will be referred to legal officials, agents, or agencies when appropriate. Depending on the severity, the Institute may require chemical dependency evaluation and/or treatment by a trained chemical dependency counselor. Expenses incurred are the responsibility of the student.

The student may be suspended or expelled from a program in compliance with SDCL 13-32-4.