



POLICY

Category	Approval		
Series 1000: Students	Effective	Administration	Board
	2/22/10	12/4/09	2/22/10
	Revised		For Review
	6/25/18		2022

DRUG-FREE CAMPUS

MTC 1035

PHILOSOPHY

Student and employee safety is a paramount concern to Mitchell Technical College, 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. MTC 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 College that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, use, or being under the influence of a controlled substance on property of MTC or while a student of MTC is engaged in an activity assigned as part of his/her involvement with MTC 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.

MTC'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 MTC Student Handbook on how MTC 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 College. The student will be referred to legal officials, agents, or agencies when appropriate. Depending on the severity, the College may require chemical dependency evaluation and/or treatment by a trained chemical dependency counselor. Expenses incurred are the responsibility of the student.

If a student is under the age of 21 or a dependent student, regardless of age, MTC may disclose to a parent or guardian, without the student's consent, information regarding the student's violation of the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.

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

Legal Reference: Public Law 100-690
 SDCL 13-32-4
 SDCL 34-20B-11 to 34-20B-26
 Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (EDGAR Part 86)

6/22/15 – The period of ineligibility for Title IV financial aid funds was amended to match the federal regulations for student financial aid.
1/9/17 – Updated policy from "district" to "MTC". Further clarifications to language made to meet federal regulations and to focus policy to students and not staff.
6/25/18 – A paragraph was added that MTC may disclose violations of this policy to parents when the student is a minor or a dependent.