

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Policy

Southern Arkansas University Tech strictly prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of marijuana, cocaine, LSD, or any hallucinogens or other controlled substances by anyone in a campus facility or on property owned or controlled by the College. SAU Tech policy also prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, or use of alcohol on College property or at official College activities by students and employees. SAU Tech is a drug free campus. Any individual known to be possessing, using, or distributing such drugs or alcohol is subject to disciplinary actions that could result in expulsion and/or removal from campus housing and possible arrest, imprisonment, or fine according to state and federal laws.

Federal Student Aid (FSA) Penalties for Drug Convictions.....

Each Institution must provide to each student, upon enrollment, a separate, clear, and conspicuous written notice that advises the student that a conviction for any offense, during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving federal financial aid program funds, under and federal or state law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs will result in the loss of eligibility for any federal student grant, loan, or work-study assistance (HEA Sec. 484(r)(1)); (20 U.S.C. 1091(r)(1))

Student Convicted of the Possession or Sale of Drugs

(taken from the 2015-2016 FSA Handbook)

A federal or state drug conviction (but not a local or municipal conviction) can disqualify a student for FSA funds.

Convictions only count against a student for aid eligibility purposes (FAFSA question 23c) if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving federal student aid—they do not count if the offense was not during such a period, unless the student was denied federal benefits for drug trafficking by a federal or state judge (see drug abuse hold sidebar). Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student’s record does not count, nor does one received when she was a juvenile, unless she was tried as an adult.

The chart below illustrates the period of ineligibility for FSA funds, depending on whether the conviction was for sale or possession and whether the student had previous offenses. (A conviction for sale of drugs includes convictions for conspiring to sell drugs.)

	Possession of illegal drugs	Sale of illegal drugs
1st offense	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from date of conviction
2nd offense	2 years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
3+ offenses	Indefinite period	

If the student was convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, the student will be ineligible for the longer period. Schools must provide each student who becomes ineligible for FSA funds due to a drug conviction a clear and conspicuous written notice of his loss of eligibility and the

methods whereby he can become eligible again.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends (i.e., for a 1st or 2nd offense); or when he or she successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program that includes passing two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make him ineligible again.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain eligibility after completing any of the following 3 options: 1) Successfully completing a rehabilitation program, as described below, which includes passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program); 2) Having the conviction reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record; or 3) Successfully completing two unannounced drug tests which are part of a rehab program (the student does not need to complete the rest of the program).

In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to certify to you that she has successfully completed the rehabilitation program; as with the conviction question on the FAFSA, you are not required to confirm the reported information unless you have conflicting information.

When a student regains eligibility during the award year, you may award Pell Grant, TEACH, and Campus-Based aid for the current payment period and Direct Loans for the period of enrollment.

Standards for a Qualified Drug Rehabilitation Program.....

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least two unannounced drug tests and satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

- Be qualified to receive funds directly or indirectly from a federal, state, or local government program.
- Be qualified to receive payment directly or indirectly from a federally or state-licensed insurance company.
- Be administered or recognized by a federal, state, or local government agency or court.
- Be administered or recognized by a federally or state-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor.

Health Risks Associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.....

There are obvious risks associated with alcohol and drug abuse, but there are a number of less obvious risks as well:

- Physical and mental dependence
- Memory loss
- Violent behavior, aggressive acts, and angry feelings
- Headaches
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Muscle weakness
- A drug tolerance
- Liver, lung, and kidney problems
- Brain damage
- Hallucinations, tremors, and convulsions
- Hyperactivity or Sluggish behavior
- Poor academic performance
- Unwanted sexual activity (i.e. date rape)

- Sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Impact on future career prospects
- Adverse effects from withdrawal

Alcohol and other drug use may also lead to other health problems such as respiratory depression, cancer, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, elevated blood pressure, and, in some case, death.

If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, even low doses of alcohol can have dangerous effects.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education.....

Southern Arkansas University Tech assists students in finding alternatives to alcoholic beverages to promote social interaction and stress reduction. SAU Tech also provides services for students who experience alcohol related difficulties.

For students with substance abuse problems or concerns, assistance is available through the SAU Tech Counseling Center. Experienced professional counselors offer support for students in an atmosphere of understanding and confidentiality. The Counseling Center offers individual assessment and referral to both on- and off-campus resources. Faculty and staff counseling is also available in the SAU Tech Counseling Center.

Anyone aware of substance abuse problems that exist with friends, roommates, classmates, College personnel, or family members is encouraged to consult a counselor at the Counseling Center. Remaining silent or waiting until the situation is out of control is neither respectful nor responsible.

Definitions:

Drug Abuse Violations: Violations of state and local laws relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs. The relevant substances include: opium or cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine, crack); marijuana; PCP; synthetic narcotics (demerol, methadones); and dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, benzedrine). This also includes "legal drugs" which are not prescribed by a licensed physician.

Liquor Law Violations: The violation of laws or ordinance prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transporting, furnishing, possessing or intoxicating liquor; maintaining unlawful drinking places; bootlegging; operating a still; furnishing liquor to minor or intemperate person; using a vehicle for illegal transportation of liquor; drinking on a train or public conveyance; all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned. (Drunkenness and driving under the influence are not included in this definition).