

## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICIES**



**BROWN MACKIE COLLEGE**  
MERRILLVILLE<sup>SM</sup>

## **Alcohol/Drug Possession, Usage, and Distribution Policy**

### *Drug-Free Workplace and College*

The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol at Brown Mackie College — Merrillville or in facilities controlled by the Brown Mackie College — Merrillville are prohibited by College regulations and are incompatible with the Brown Mackie College — Merrillville goal of providing a healthy educational environment for students, faculty, staff, and guests. The following information is provided in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989.

### *Effects of Drugs and Alcohol*

Although individuals often use drugs and alcohol to achieve a variety of effects on mind and body that are found to be temporarily useful or pleasurable, drugs can be highly addictive and injurious. A person can pay a price in terms of his or her physical, emotional, and social health.

This price can be paid in a number of ways. The risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, is increased through unwanted or unprotected sex when one is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Drugs can be the trigger for violent crime. Economic and legal problems usually follow directly when one tries to support a drug habit by resorting to crime. The dependence, illness, loss of job, and loss of family or friends that can result from drug or alcohol use and abuse can be tragic.

In keeping with the mission of Education Management Corporation and the requirements of state and federal law Brown Mackie College — Merrillville has adopted this program to ensure a drug-free college and workplace and to prevent the use of controlled substances and the abuse of alcohol.

### *Health Risks Associated with the Use of Alcohol*

#### **Short-Term Risks**

- Increased risks of accidents and injuries
- Alcohol-related traffic accidents (the leading cause of death for teens)
- Alcohol slows reaction time, decreases muscle coordination, and impairs vision
- Fatal overdose
- Unconsciousness or blackout
- Death by aspiration of vomit
- Nausea
- Gastritis

#### **Long-Term Risks**

- Increased blood pressure
- Increased risk of heart attack
- Brain damage resulting in permanent psychosis
- Cancer of the mouth, esophagus, or stomach
- Liver damage (cirrhosis, alcohol hepatitis, cancer)
- Ulcers and gastritis
- Pancreatitis
- Birth defects
- In males, testicular atrophy and breast enlargement
- In females, increased risk of breast cancer
- Prolonged, excessive drinking can shorten life span by 10 to 12 years

### *Health Risks Associated with the Use of Drugs*

#### **Amphetamines (Speed, Uppers)**

- Malnutrition
- Hallucinations
- Dependence, psychological, and sometimes physical

#### **Deliriants (Aerosols, Lighter Fluid, Paint Thinner)**

- Permanent damage to lungs, brain, liver, bone marrow
- Loss of coordination, confusion, hallucinations
- Overdose causing convulsions, death

#### **Depressants (Barbiturates, Tranquilizers, Methaqualone)**

- Confusion, depression, loss of coordination
- Dependence — physical and psychological
- Coma, death (caused by overdose)
- Can be lethal when combined with alcohol

#### **Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, DMT, STP, Mescaline)**

- Hallucinations, panic, irrational behaviors (which can lead to increased risk of accidents, injuries)
- Tolerance overdose leading to convulsions, coma, death
- Possible birth defects in children of LSD users

#### **Intravenous Drug Use**

- Places one at risk for HIV infection (the virus causing AIDS) when needles are shared

#### **Marijuana and Hashish**

- Chronic bronchitis
- Decreased vital capacity
- Increased risk of lung cancer
- In men, lower levels of testosterone and increase in abnormal sperm count

#### **Stimulants (Cocaine)**

- Painful nosebleeds and nasal erosion
- Intense “downs” that result in physical and/or emotional discomfort
- Tolerance and physical dependence can develop

#### **Narcotics (Heroin, Morphine, Codeine, Opium)**

- Malnutrition
- Hepatitis
- Loss of judgment and self-control leading to increased risk of accidents, injuries
- Dependence
- Overdose leading to convulsions, coma, death

### *Sanctions*

#### **Brown Mackie College — Merrillville Sanctions**

Brown Mackie College — Merrillville, in all of its actions, seeks to uphold local, state, and federal laws. Insofar as permitted by these laws, the Brown Mackie College — Merrillville will apply sanctions that could lead to a student being fined, suspended, or expelled or an employee being disciplined, suspended, or dismissed for violation of the Brown Mackie College — Merrillville standards of conduct. Students and employees may also be referred for prosecution. Disciplinary sanctions may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program, at the student's or employee's expense, if necessary.

## State and Federal Sanctions

Indiana criminal statutes provide for drug offense penalties in relation to the nature of the offense, the drug involved, whether the offense is a first or subsequent offense, and in some cases, the amount of the drug involved. Unlawful purchase or possession of any drug in Schedule I or Schedule II (includes cocaine, heroin, morphine, hallucinogens, etc.) carries a sentence of 1.5 to 20 years imprisonment for a first offense and 4 to 30 years for subsequent offenses.

Unlawful manufacture, sale or possession with intent to sell of those drugs carries a sentence of 4 to 30 years for a first offense. Subsequent offenses can result in life imprisonment.

Unlawful purchase, possession, manufacture, or sale of marijuana carries a minimum prison sentence of 1 to 4 years.

Drug trafficking (selling, manufacturing, or possessing large quantities of illegal drugs) carries minimum mandatory prison terms and minimum fines under Indiana law as noted below:

Cocaine (28 – 200 grams) 10 years and \$10,000

Morphine, opium, heroin (4 – 14 grams) 10 years and \$10,000

Marijuana (50 – 2000 lbs.) 4 years and \$10,000

*Mandatory sentences increase in proportion to quantity.*

Driving under the influence of alcohol at .08 BAC, or drugs, carries the following penalties:

**First Conviction:** License suspension for at least 90 days. Court costs for drug evaluation and treatment, community service and imprisonment for not less than 5 days.

**Second Conviction:** License suspension for up to one year. Court costs for drug evaluation and treatment, community service for 180 hours and imprisonment for at least 5 days.

**Third or Subsequent Conviction:** License suspension at least one year and up to two years. Court costs for drug evaluation and treatment, community service for 360 hours, imprisonment at least 10 days.

Habitual Offender Statutes in Indiana enhance the penalties by adding an additional 3 to 8 years to the above penalties.

Additional monetary penalties may also be imposed to compensate victims. If the DUI causes the death of another person, the prison sentence is enhanced.

Furnishing alcoholic beverages to, and purchase or possession of alcoholic beverages by any person under the age of 21 is prohibited by Indiana law. The charge for the first conviction is a Class C Felony. In addition to criminal penalties, anyone who furnishes alcohol to an underage person, knowing that such person will soon be driving, may become liable for injuries or damages caused by the underage drinking driver.

Additional sanctions exist under Indiana law for drug and alcohol-related offenses including denial of student loans and grants, ineligibility to participate in home loan and other assistance programs, and denial or revocation of professional licenses.

Federal penalties and sanctions for illegal possession of a controlled substance include the following:

**First Conviction** Up to one year in prison, fine of \$1,000 to \$100,000, or both

**Second Conviction** At least 15 days and up to two years imprisonment, \$5,000 to \$250,000 fine, or both

**After Two Drug Convictions** At least 90 days and up to three years in prison, \$5,000 to \$250,000 fine, or both. Special federal sentencing provisions for possession of crack cocaine include a mandatory prison term of at least five years and up to 20 years, fine of up to \$250,000, or both, for a first conviction if the amount of crack exceeds five grams, for a second conviction if amount exceeds three grams, and for a third or subsequent conviction if the amount exceeds one gram.

Additional federal sanctions may also apply including forfeiture of vehicles used to transport controlled substances, denial of federal benefits including student loans, grants, and contracts, and denial or revocation of certain federal licenses and benefits.

#### *Convictions for Drug-Related Offenses*

Any student convicted of any drug-related criminal statute must notify the dean of academic affairs, in writing, no later than five (5) days after such conviction regardless of where the offense occurred. This is because under federal and state laws, any student convicted of a drug-related felony offense must be denied all federal and state assistance, including Pell Grants, Frank O'Bannon grant and 21st Century Scholars program. However, a criminal conviction shall not be necessary to find that a student has violated these standards of conduct, and Brown Mackie College — Merrillville need not, and ordinarily will not, defer its own actions and sanctions pending the outcome of any criminal proceeding.

#### *Danger Signals Indicating a Drug or Alcohol Problem*

Following is a listing of classic danger signals that may indicate the presence of a drug or alcohol problem:

- Abrupt changes in mood or attitude
- Decreased efficiency at work or at school
- Frequent absences, tardiness, and/or early departures
- Relationship problems with family, friends, and co-workers
- Unusual outbursts of anger and hostility
- Social withdrawal

#### *Advising*

If you observe any of these changes in yourself or another student, you are encouraged to talk with faculty or staff member.

Abuse of alcohol or drugs can lead to dependency and addiction, with serious consequences for personal health and overall quality of life. There are drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation facilities available in our area where students and employees may seek advice and treatment. The student advisor staff or a faculty member will refer you to one that meets your needs.

*Merrillville Area Resources*

These are organizations that may be contacted for help.

Lake County Drug Task Force  
2900 W 93rd Avenue  
Crown Point, IN  
219-755-3822

Addiction and Family Care  
2440 169th Street  
Hammond, IN  
219-844-7152

Narcotics Anonymous  
Hammond/Griffin & Valparaiso, IN  
219-793-6262

National Sexual Assault Hotline  
800-656-HOPE

A Center For Alcohol & Drug Treatment Programs  
800-665-3988

Lake County Alcohol & Drug Treatment Programs  
219-755-3013

Alcoholics Anonymous  
7207 Indianapolis Boulevard  
Hammond, IN  
219-844-6695

Call for meeting times and locations.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse Hotline 800-662-4357 is available from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Monday through Friday and from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on weekends.

A list of emergency and sliding-fee scale resources is available from the student advisor.