

Alcohol and Drug Policies

Alcohol Policy

The health and well-being of every Reach University student is the responsibility of each community member and of the entire community and is the primary focus of the following policy. The university recognizes that responsible alcohol use can be compatible with healthy adult behavior.

All Reach University students are expected to comply with federal, state, and local laws. The federal government, through the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, requires that colleges enforce state and local laws concerning drugs and alcohol in order to remain eligible for federal funds including federal student financial aid.

Drug Policy

All Reach University students are expected to comply with federal, state, and local laws.

Sanctions

Violation of the alcohol and drug policy will subject students to disciplinary actions that may range from warning, alcohol and other drug education, probation, and up to suspension or expulsion.

The Health Risks of Drugs

The use of drugs poses significant health risks. Drugs can create psychological dependence, which is defined as a need or craving for the substance and can produce feelings of restlessness, tension or anxiety when the substance is withdrawn. Prolonged use can lead to tolerance, characterized by the need for increasing amounts of the substance to achieve the same effect. As tolerance and psychological dependence develop, judgment becomes impaired. People do not realize that they are losing control over the use of the substance and that they need help. Drugs such as LSD, amphetamines, and marijuana alter emotion, cognition, perception, physiology and behavior in a variety of ways. Serious health risks include depression, apathy, hallucination, paranoia, and impaired judgment among other things. LSD has caused psychotic breaks in a number of students. All these substances have adverse effects on pregnancy. When two or more substances are combined, there is often an effect that is stronger than their additive sum.

Students find that drug use is incompatible with high-level academic performance. The depression, apathy, and distraction that accompany drug use have resulted in poor academic performance (failing grades) and the need to take a leave from Pomona in order to receive adequate treatment for substance abuse problems.

Resources for Students

Reach University encourages its students to discuss alcohol and drug use and/or the issues and problems associated with alcohol and drug abuse with their Student Service Advisor.

Responding to Drug Policy Violations

Residence hall rooms are Pomona College property. The College respects the student's right to privacy and college officials will not enter residence hall rooms without reasonable suspicion that college policies or regulations have been violated. When a credible report of drug use or drug sale exists or when a hazardous or disruptive situation occurs, the College reserves the right of access to student rooms, and to search property in the room owned by the College (e.g., desk, drawers, closet, bed). For health, safety or security reasons or to determine compliance with Pomona College policies, access to students' rooms by college staff (including RAs) may occur without notice. The College reserves the right to remove items that violate college policies. Failure to comply with the directions of College officials (including RAs) is a violation of the Student Code and will result in disciplinary action.

When a student is charged with a violation of Federal, State or Local Law, a College disciplinary action may be taken if the action also violates College policies.

Local, State and Federal laws apply to the Pomona College campus and law enforcement officials do patrol and police the Pomona campus. College officials are not able, even when they are willing, to shield students who violate the law.