

SACI ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

Alcohol and Drugs

The information in this section of the web site on drug and alcohol use is provided in response to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226), which require that university-level institutions demonstrate that they have adopted and implemented programs to prevent illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees.

This policy is included in the Orientation Packet of all new SACI students. A link to consumer information on the SACI website (including this policy) is sent to current students at the beginning of each term. The policy is sent digitally once a year to SACI faculty and staff and given to new faculty and staff members upon employment at SACI. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, employee, and student to adhere to this policy. Breach of this policy will result in disciplinary action that may lead to suspension, dismissal, or expulsion from SACI, possible criminal prosecution toward policy violators, and it can negatively affect a Title IV recipient's eligibility for Federal Financial Aid.

SACI Facilities

To ensure SACI's commitment to a quality educational and work environment, every faculty member, employee, and student has a right to work and learn in an environment free from the effects of abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

Therefore, SACI policy prohibits the unlawful use, sale, dispensing, transfer or possession of controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, drugs not medically authorized, or any other substance that may impair an individual's academic or work performance. Neither alcohol nor medically unauthorized drugs are permitted on SACI premises, with the exception that wine may be served at appropriate university-sponsored supervised events.

Prevention

Studying and working at SACI offers many opportunities and choices. Each decision you make can greatly impact your future. Choices relating to alcohol and other drug use can affect your safety, academics, health, relationships, and the lives of others in the SACI community.

Alcohol and other drug misuse often results in:

- sexual assaults
- increases in vandalism
- discipline problems
- decreases in academic performance
- injuries
- medical problems
- deaths, including overdoses
- suicides
- traffic fatalities
- impaired driving abilities
- physical and psychological dependency

Absence from work or school, erratic job performance or study capacity, safety hazards and a decrease in job productivity and learning capability are just a few problems experienced by persons who are impaired by using alcohol and other drugs.

Each of us must become aware of the issues related to alcohol and other drug use in our community.

Alcohol Health Risks

- Abstinence from alcohol is a safe and acceptable lifelong decision. Alcohol-free lifestyles can decrease or eliminate your risk of alcohol-related negative consequences. By choosing healthy alternatives to alcohol consumption, you can learn new coping skills, alternatives to decreasing stress, and stronger social skills.
- Research shows that adverse consequences may occur even at relatively low levels of alcohol consumption. Driving-related skills can be impaired at relatively low levels of blood alcohol concentration. Reaction time, judgment, attention spans, eye movements, and coordination can be altered adversely at BACs (blood alcohol content) which are less than intoxication levels.
- Ongoing studies are exploring the risks to a fetus associated with low levels of alcohol consumption.
- Many of the reported psychological and cardiovascular benefits have been associated with moderate drinking. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has defined moderate drinking as "no more than one standard drink per day for women and no more than two standard drinks per day for men. A standard drink is equal to 12 ounces of regular beer (with 0.5 ounces of absolute alcohol), 5 ounces of table wine, or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits."
- Heavy drinking contributes to accidents, violence, trauma and medical problems that can result in death.

Drug Health Risks

	Narcotics	Depressants	Stimulants	Hallucinogens	Cannibus
	(Opium, Morphine, Codeine, Heroin, Hydromorphone, Meperidine, Methadone)	(Chloral Hydrate, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Methaqualone, Glutethimide)	(Cocaine, Amphetamines, Phenmetrazine, Methylphenidate)	(LSD, Mescaline & Peyote, Amphetamine Variants, Phencyclidine, Phencyclidine)	(Marijuana, Tetrahydrocannabinol, hashish, hashish oil)
Possible Effects	euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, nausea	slurred speech, disorientation, drunken behavior without odor of alcohol	increased alertness, excitation, euphoria, increased pulse rate and blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite	analogues, illusions, & hallucinations, poor perception of time and distance	euphoria, relaxed inhibitions, increased appetite, disoriented behavior
Effects of Overdose	Slow & shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, possible death	shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma, possible death	agitation, increase in body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, possible death	Longer, more intense "trip" episodes, psychosis, possible death	fatigue, paranoia, possible psychosis
Withdrawal Syndrome	watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, loss of appetite, irritability, tremors, panic, cramps, nausea, chills and sweating	anxiety, insomnia, tremors, delirium, convulsions, possible death	apathy, long periods of sleep, irritability, depression, disorientation	withdrawal syndrome not reported	insomnia, hyperactivity, decreased appetite occasionally reported
Risk of Physical Dependence	High	Moderate to High	Possible	Unknown	Unknown
Risk of Psychological Dependence	High	Moderate to High	High	Unknown, High for Phencyclidine	Moderate

Alcohol/Drug Abuse and the Law

Before you choose to break the law, please review the risks you encounter, such as

- possible fine
- imprisonment
- criminal record
- embarrassment
- career jeopardy
- reputation jeopardy
- loss of self-esteem
- loss of job
- suspension or expulsion from SACI
- expulsion from Italy
- death

While in Italy, you have a responsibility to follow Italian laws regarding alcohol and drugs. If you fail to live up to that responsibility, you may face certain penalties.

Italian Laws regarding Alcohol Consumption, Sale, and Distribution

According to the Italian Criminal Code, an individual is considered intoxicated if, as a result of consuming alcoholic beverages, the individual exhibits a total or partial reduction of his or her mental capacities. If, because of such intoxication, the individual commits a crime, he or she may be subject to criminal consequences.

The Italian Criminal Code makes the following distinctions regarding drunkenness.

If an individual becomes drunk voluntarily or because of his or her negligence (i.e., the individual did not want to become drunk but was unable to avoid doing so), the individual is not exempt from possible criminal consequences arising from his or her conduct.

Article 92 of the Italian Criminal Code states that if an individual becomes drunk in order to commit a crime, or to serve as an excuse for committing a crime, the individual may be subject to severe criminal sanctions. Should an individual's drunkenness not be total, and therefore his or her mental incapacity only partial, criminal sanctions may be reduced, but they are not excluded. If, however, drunkenness resulting in mental incapacity has been caused by an accident or by force majeure (e.g., an individual has been forced against his or her will to consume alcohol), the individual may not be liable for criminal sanctions based upon consequences arising from his or her conduct.

Article 86 of the Italian Criminal Code states that, if the condition of drunkenness has been induced by others for the purpose of aiding them to commit a crime, such a crime shall be the responsibility of those who have caused such a condition.

Articles 94 and 95 of the Italian Criminal Code Specific address the legal status of individuals deemed to be in a permanent state of drunkenness or alcoholic intoxication and the legal measures that may be brought to bear against such individuals.

Article 234 of the Italian Criminal Code states that, whenever a judge ascertains that an individual is alcohol dependent or that there is a concrete danger to individual's health or to public safety owing to alcoholic dependency, the judge may prohibit the individual for up to one year from entering public places where alcohol is served or sold. Such prohibition is always applicable in the event of a criminal judgment for crimes committed while drunk.

Article 689 of the Italian Criminal Code states that sale and distribution of alcoholic drinks and beverages by the manager of a bar/cafeteria ("osteria") or food and beverage shop, in a public place or in place open to the public, is prohibited to individuals under 16-years-old and those who are mentally ill or have a clear mental deficiency caused by any other illness.

Article 688 of the Italian Criminal Code prohibits, in a public place or in a place open to the public, clear drunkenness that could cause a danger to society at large.

Article 690 of the Italian Criminal Code prohibits, in a public place or in a place open to the public, the serving of alcoholic beverages to an individual that cause the individual to become intoxicated. Article 690 also prohibits, in a public place or in a place open to the public, the serving of alcoholic beverages to an individual who is already clearly intoxicated.

Article 686 of the Italian Criminal Code prohibits the production, sale, or importation of alcoholic beverages without the mandatory licenses.

Article 687 of the Italian Criminal Code authorizes the police to prohibit, for limited periods of time at specific locations, the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. This provision allows the police to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages at events in which consumption of alcoholic beverages may lead to the endangerment of the public.

Italian Laws regarding Illegal Drugs

In Italy, the principal laws regarding illegal drugs are contained in D.P.R. n.309 of October 9, 1990, and its subsequent amendments, commonly known as the “Consolidated Act” on drugs.

Italian law makes a clear distinction between drug possession for personal use and drug possession for other uses. Although personal use of drugs is not a crime in Italy, it is considered dangerous behavior which must be controlled. Drug possession for other uses (e.g., delivery, production, sale) is considered criminal and can lead to severe legal consequences. Determination of whether drug possession is for personal use or for other uses is based upon the quantity of each drug that is in the possession of the individual. If an individual is in possession of any drug in an amount considered excessive by Italian law, the possession of this drug is deemed not for personal use but for other purposes and is therefore illegal. Law enforcement officials and judges also take into consideration other factual data, such as the manner in which the drug is maintained by the individual and whether the individual has in his or her possession instruments related to drug dealing.

In determining the amount of a drug that may be possessed for personal use, Italian law also distinguishes between individuals who are addicted to drugs and those who are not. Those certified by public health-care authorities as drug addicts are permitted to have in their possession a larger quantity of a drug to which they are deemed to be addicted than are individuals who are not so certified.

Individuals who are deemed by Italian law enforcement authorities as having purchased or possessed drugs for personal use may be subject to sanctions such as suspension of their driving license and/or passport. Though immediate expulsion of non-Italian citizens is not mandatory, it is possible that permission to remain in Italy may be revoked.

Individuals who are deemed by Italian law enforcement authorities as having purchased or possessed drugs for other purposes, according to the definitions indicated above, are considered to be engaging in criminal behavior and are subject to legal sanctions that can include up to 20 years of imprisonment. It should be noted that an individual who is in possession of any drug in an amount considered excessive by Italian law is subject to the same legal sanctions as an individual who “traffics” in such a drug. Criminal sanctions are proportionate to the seriousness of the situation and may be reduced if the individual cooperates with legal authorities.

If an individual is involved in membership, promotion, organization, or financing of a group or association of three or more members that engages in illegal drug activity, the individual is subject to legal sanctions of at least 10 or more years of imprisonment, even if the individual is deemed to be a “passive” participant in such activities.

Non-Italian citizens who have been convicted of having purchased or possessed drugs for purposes other than personal use or of being a member of a group or association engaging in illegal drug activity will be expelled from Italy once they have completed any prescribed period of imprisonment and fulfilled any other legal obligations related to their conviction. SACI is not able to intervene in legal matters pertaining to illegal purchase or possession of drugs, nor is SACI able to assist in mitigating sentences or other legal obligations that an individual convicted of such activity must complete or

fulfill.

Criminal penalties, including incarceration, may also be levied against individuals convicted of involvement in the following illegal activities:

- Allowing or abetting the use of illegal drugs or trafficking in illegal drugs in public places.
- Initiating or instigating illegal use of drugs.
- Leaving in public places syringes or other items related to illegal drug use.
- Publicizing, promoting, or marketing illegal drugs.

SACI Policy and Procedures regarding Use, Possession, or Distribution of Illegal Drugs and Alcohol

SACI policy prohibits:

- The use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs, including the use or possession of drug paraphernalia containing illegal drug residue.
- The possession, distribution, or unauthorized use of alcoholic beverages on SACI premises.

When a student or employee is found responsible for violating the alcohol policy and/or procedures, the student is required to meet with SACI's Interim Dean of Students, who will take disciplinary action based upon impact of the behavior on the student or employee, the community, and whether the student has had previous disciplinary warnings or sanctions while at SACI.

Support for Those with Alcohol and Drug Abuse Problems

SACI supports programs aimed at preventing student and employee alcohol and other drug impairment problems. Students and employees who seek alcohol or drug abuse counseling should speak with SACI's Interim Dean of Students, who can refer those seeking such help to English-speaking health-care professionals in Florence who are trained in alcohol and drug abuse counseling.

Off-campus assistance is available through:

- *(For Alcohol Abuse Problems)* Alcoholics Anonymous, c/o St. James Church, Via Rucellai, 9. Phone: 055/2326133.
- *(For Drug Abuse Problems)* Dr. Margaret Runge, Via della Palancola 20. Email: dr_runge@hotmail.com, Mobile phone: 349-7169302
Dr. Anna T. Choub (Monday, Thursday, and Friday), Piazza Mercato Nuovo 1. Email: achoub@yahoo.com

Notification of Home School

Changes to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) have given colleges/universities the option to release specific types of information from a student's discipline record.

SACI will notify the appropriate official(s) at the student's home school when a student is found responsible for the use, sale, or possession of controlled substances (illegal drugs) within the community.

SACI will also notify the appropriate official(s) at the student's home school when a student is found to have violated SACI policies on the use and possession of alcohol and one or more of the following occurs:

1. When a student has been found to have violated SACI's alcohol policy a second time;
2. When there is significant property damage;
3. When medical attention to any person, including the student, is required as a result of the student's alcohol-related behavior;
4. When the student demonstrates reckless disregard for his or her own personal safety or the safety of others; or
5. There is evidence that the student's alcohol-related behavior negatively impacted the learning environment.

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