SACI ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

Alcohol and Drugs

This information 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.

**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 Dean, 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 Dean, who can refer those seeking such help to English-speaking healthcare 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.

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Narcotics</th>
<th>Depressants</th>
<th>Stimulants</th>
<th>Hallucinogens</th>
<th>Cannabis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Opium, Morphine, Codeine, Heroin, Hydromorphone, Mependorine, Methadone)</td>
<td>(Chloral Hydrate, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Methaqualone, Glutethimide)</td>
<td>(Cocaine, Amphetamines, Phencyclidines, Methylenedioxymethamphetamine)</td>
<td>(LSD, Hallucinogens)</td>
<td>(Marijuana, Hashish, Hashish Oil)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Possible Effects</td>
<td>euphoria, drowsiness, respirator depression, constricted pupils, nausea</td>
<td>slurred speech, disorientation, drunken behavior without odor of alcohol</td>
<td>increased alertness, excitement, euphoria, increased rate and blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite</td>
<td>analogues, illusions, hallucinations, poor perception of time and distance</td>
<td>euphoria, relaxed inhibition, increased appetite, disoriented behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects of Overdose</td>
<td>Slow &amp; shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, possible death</td>
<td>shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma, possible death</td>
<td>agitation, increase in body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, possible death</td>
<td>Longer, more intense &quot;trip&quot; episodes, psychosis, possible death</td>
<td>fatigue, paranoia, possible psychosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Withdrawal Syndrome</td>
<td>watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, loss of appetite, irritability, tremors, panic, cramps, nausea, chills and sweating</td>
<td>anxiety, insomnia, tremors, delirium, convulsions, possible death</td>
<td>apathy, long periods of sleep, irritability, depression, disorientation</td>
<td>withdrawal syndrome not reported</td>
<td>insomnia, hyperactivity, decreased appetite occasionally reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk of Physical Dependence</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Moderate to High</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk of Psychological Dependence</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Moderate to High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Unknown, High for Phencyclidine</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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.

Article 92 of the Italian Criminal Code states that if an individual becomes drunk voluntarily or because of his or her negligence, the individual is not exempt from possible sanctions arising from his or her conduct. If drunkenness was planned purposely to commit a crime, the penalty is increased.

Article 93 states that the above also applies for those under the effect of drugs.

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.

Article 94 of the Italian Criminal Code states that when a crime is committed in a state of drunkenness, and this is habitual (the person is addicted and in a state of frequent drunkenness), the penalty is increased. The aggravation of the penalty also applies when the crime is committed under the effect of drugs by those who are habitual drug users.

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 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. Anyone caught in a state of manifest drunkenness in a public place or open to the public is punished with a pecuniary administrative sanction from € 51 to € 309. If the offense is committed by someone who has already been convicted of a non-culpable crime against life or individual safety, the penalty is imprisonment for three to six months. The penalty is increased if drunkenness is habitual.

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 “traffic[s]” 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.

Updated: 06/2019