

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE AND CAMPUS

Drug and Alcohol Policies

The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol on the campus of The Art Institute of California – Orange County or in facilities controlled by The Art Institute of California – Orange County are prohibited by college regulations and are incompatible with The Art Institute of California – Orange County 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 The Art Institute of California – Orange County and the requirements of state and federal law, The Art Institute of California – Orange County has adopted this program to ensure a drug-free campus 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 ten to twelve 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

The Art Institute Sanctions

The Art Institute of California – Orange County, in all of its actions, seeks to uphold local, state and federal laws. Insofar as permitted by these laws, The Art Institute of California – Orange County 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 Art Institute of California – Orange County 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.

Federal Sanctions

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

First conviction: Up to 1 year in prison, fine of \$1,000 to \$100,000, or both.

Second conviction: At least 15 days and up to 2 years imprisonment, \$5,000 to \$250,000 fine, or both.
After two drug convictions: At least 90 days and up to 3 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 5 years and up to 20 years, fine of up to \$250,000, or both, for a first conviction if the amount of crack exceeds 5 grams, for a second conviction if amount exceeds 3 grams, and for a third or subsequent conviction if the amount exceeds 1 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/Director of Student 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 and state-specific grants. However, a criminal conviction shall not be necessary to find that a student has violated these standards of conduct, and The Art Institute of California – Orange County 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

Counseling

If you observe any of these changes in yourself or another student, you are encouraged to seek help. 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 the area where students and employees may seek advice and treatment.

Orange County Area Resources

There are also organizations that may be contacted for help. The Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Hotline (1-800-252-6465) and the Cocaine Hotline (1-800-444-9999) are open 24 hours a day. The National Institute on Drug Abuse Hotline (1-800-662-4357) 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 in the Student Affairs Office.