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## *HUNTINGTON JUNIOR COLLEGE*

### *DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY*

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#### **DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE POLICY**

Huntington Junior College is designated as “Drug and Alcohol Free.” It is a violation of the HJC Alcohol Policy for anyone to possess or consume alcohol in any public or private area of the campus. It is the policy of the College to establish and maintain a drug-free workplace. Therefore, as a condition of enrollment or employment in accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act, it shall be prohibited for students or employees to engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance while at Huntington Junior College. It is also against the policy for students or employees to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on school property. This policy also extends to any function or location, even outside the immediate college campus, where students or employees conduct official business on behalf of the College or are attending as a student of the College.

West Virginia sanctions depend on the classification of controlled substance, the particular activity involved (possession or trafficking) and whether multiple convictions are involved. Under West Virginia law, the most severe penalties for drug violations are for possession with intent to sell. On a first offense conviction, one may receive a fine of up to \$25,000 and/or imprisonment for 15 years. Sanctions for violations of State alcohol laws vary according to the severity of the offense, with the minimum vehicular violation calling for imprisonment in the county jail for 24 hours and a \$500 fine.

#### **HEALTH RISK WITH ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE**

According to National Institute on Drug Abuse, “Drug use can have a wide range of short- and long-term, direct and indirect effects. These effects often depend on the specific drug or drugs used, how they are taken, how much is taken, the person's health, and other factors. Short-term effects can range from changes in appetite, wakefulness, heart rate, blood pressure, and/or mood to heart attack, stroke, psychosis, overdose, and even death. These health effects may occur after just one use.” To see more details on the health risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse, please visit <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/health-consequences-drug-misuse>

## LOSS OF AID ELIGIBILITY ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES AND HOW TO REGAIN ELIGIBILITY

(as taken directly from Chapter 1 of the Student Financial Aid Handbook)

The chart below illustrates the period of ineligibility for FSA funds, depending on whether the conviction was for sale or possession and whether the student had previous offenses. (A conviction for sale of drugs includes convictions for conspiring to sell drugs.)

	Possession of Illegal Drugs	Sale of Illegal Drugs
1st Offense	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from date of conviction
2nd Offense	2 years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
3+ Offenses	Indefinite period	Indefinite period

If the student was convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, the student will be ineligible for the longer period.

Schools must provide each student who becomes ineligible for Title IV aid due to a drug conviction a clear and conspicuous written notice of his loss of eligibility and the methods whereby he can become eligible again.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when he successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program or, effective beginning with the 2010–2011 award year, passes two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make him ineligible again.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it after successfully completing a rehabilitation program (as described below), passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program, or if a conviction is reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record. In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to certify to you that she has successfully completed the rehabilitation program; as with the conviction question on the FAFSA, you are not required to confirm the reported information unless you have conflicting information.

When a student regains eligibility during the award year, you may award Pell, ACG, National SMART, TEACH, and Campus-based aid for the current payment period and Direct and FFEL loans for the period of enrollment.

## STANDARDS FOR A QUALIFIED DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAM

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least two unannounced drug tests and must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

- Be qualified to receive funds directly or indirectly from a federal, state, or local government program.
- Be qualified to receive payment directly or indirectly from a federally or state-licensed insurance company.
- Be administered or recognized by a federal, state, or local government agency or court.
- Be administered or recognized by a federally or state-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor.

If you are counseling a student who will need to enter such a program, be sure to advise the student of these requirements. If a student certifies that he has successfully completed a drug rehabilitation program, but you have reason to believe that the program does not meet the requirements, you must find out if it does before paying the student any FSA funds.

### **Drug Convictions**

HEA Section 484(r)

34 CFR 668.40

### **Drug Abuse Hold**

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 includes provisions that authorize federal and state judges to deny certain federal benefits, including student aid, to persons convicted of drug trafficking or possession. The CPS maintains a hold file of those who have received such a judgment, and it checks applicants against that file to determine if they should be denied aid. This is separate from the check for a drug conviction via question 23; confirmation of a student in the drug abuse hold file will produce a rejected application and a separate comment from those associated with responses to question 23. See the ISIR Guide for more information.

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## COUNSELING AND TREATMENT OPTIONS

There are a variety of treatment options available in our community. Below are a few options, but this list is not all inclusive.

- SAMHSA's National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357), (also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service) is a confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year, information service, in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations. Callers can also order free publications and other information.
- Pretera Center, 877-399-7766, offers behavioral health care services, including addiction treatment, to those in need, regardless of ability to pay. Services include medically monitored detoxification, outpatient care, short- and long-term residential treatment, transitional housing programs, DUI treatment programs, public shelters for safe sobering up, and mental health care for co-occurring issues.
- Word House, (304) 523-9673, The Word House offers a diverse and eclectic recovery and health services for some disorders found in individuals. They offer a professional treatment after a properly prepared assessment and diagnostic system of admission.
- Lifehouse, 304-429-5433, is a long term recovery program, therapeutic community organization located in Huntington, WV. The Lifehouse is a non-profit organization created to help men and women recover from alcoholism and substance abuse. The homes associated with The Lifehouse solely exist to help men and women in West Virginia continue their journeys of sobriety with the adequate support and services to implement the life stability that is required for continual substance abuse recovery.