

DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE CAMPUS

POLICY**Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention**

Ridgewater College, hereafter referred to as “the College”, recognizes alcohol and drug abuse as a potential health, safety, and security problem. It is the intent of Ridgewater College to provide a drug-free, healthy, safe, and secure educational and work environment.

The College is committed to a program to prevent the illicit use of drugs and abuse of alcohol by students and employees. This policy addresses the issues raised by the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226). All students and employees will be provided with a copy of the college Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention policy annually and must abide by the terms of the policy.

Standards of Conduct

No student or employee shall distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, or other intoxicating liquor or unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, or any other controlled substance, as defined in Schedules I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C.812) and as further defined by regulation at 21 C.F.R. 1300.15, before, during or after school hours at the college or in any other college location as defined as follows:

“College location” means in any college building or any college premises; in any college-owned vehicle or in any other college-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from college or college activities; or on any off-college property at any college-sponsored or college-approved activity, event or function, such as a work assignment or field trip, where students are under the jurisdiction of the college.

Pursuant to the State of Minnesota Personnel Policy, “Alcohol and Other Drug use by State Employees,” effective March 18, 1989, when an employee is taking medically authorized drugs or other substances which may significantly alter job performance, the employee is under an affirmative duty to notify the appropriate supervisor of their temporary inability to perform job duties of their position. Likewise, students undergoing medically authorized drug therapy that significantly interferes with the ability to attend class or otherwise fulfill course requirements are encouraged to contact a Ridgewater College counselor.

The College recognizes the confidentiality and data privacy due applicants, current students and employees, and former students and employees under state and federal laws. The disclosure of information will be restricted to the procedures that enforce compliance with state and federal data privacy regulations.

SanctionsCollege Action

Violators of this policy are subject to the following consequences, including timely involvement of law enforcement agencies when appropriate:

- Employees found to have violated this policy will be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to any one or all of the following: oral and written reprimand, suspension, termination, and referral for prosecution.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE CAMPUS

- Students found to have violated this policy will be subject to disciplinary action according to the Student Code of Conduct, including, but not limited to any one or all of the following: warning, confiscation, suspension, expulsion, and referral for prosecution.
- Visitors found to have violated this policy are subject to removal from campus or College-sponsored off-campus events or activities.

Minnesota Law

Minnesota has many statutes which regulate and control the use and abuse of alcohol. For example, driving while under the influence (DUI) may result in a fine, jail time, and/or revocation of driver's license. Possession of alcohol under age 21 or use of false identification to purchase alcohol may result in a fine. Furnishing alcohol to persons under 21 is punishable by a fine and/or time in prison.

Federal Law

Federal law provides varying penalties for controlled substance crimes. For example, illegal possession of a controlled substance may result in a fine of \$100,000 and up to one year in prison for the first offense. Additional penalties may include forfeiture of personal property or the denial of federal student financial aid benefits or other federal licenses and benefits. Trafficking in drugs such as heroin or cocaine may result in life imprisonment.

Employees of the College must provide notification of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after such conviction.

Employees and students needing help in dealing with such a problem may use an employee or student assistance program, disability plans, and health coverage plans as appropriate and as authorized by the terms of those plans or programs. Local and national assistance contacts are provided within this policy.

The College is also concerned about the potential for adverse effects of alcohol or drug use on employee and student health and safety. The Drug and Alcohol-Free Campus Procedures include information regarding health risks associated with use of alcohol and illicit drugs.

This Drug and Alcohol-Free Campus Policy will be reviewed biennially to determine its effectiveness and implement necessary changes to ensure that the sanctions are consistently enforced.

Exceptions and Exemptions

- The medically authorized use of a prescription drug is exempt from this policy.
- An exception to use alcohol for specific events or for instructional purposes requires prior approval by the College President or designee, in accordance with a checklist outlined in Minnesota State Board Procedures 5.18.1 and 5.18.2.
- Although the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Law and program allows seriously ill Minnesotans to use medical marijuana to treat certain conditions, the possession and use of marijuana remains illegal under federal law, including the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the Controlled Substances Act, and the Campus Security Act, and Board Policy 5.18 Alcoholic Beverages or Controlled Substances on Campus. Therefore, the use, possession, production, manufacture, and distribution of marijuana continues to be prohibited while a student is on college or university owned or controlled property or any function authorized or controlled by the college or university.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE CAMPUS

Definitions Related to Alcohol and Violations

Possession: Physically having on one's person, or in one's premises, or knowingly being in the presence of any form of alcoholic beverages.

Distribution: Selling, serving, hosting an event/gathering or providing access to any form of alcoholic beverage.

Use: The consumption of any form of alcoholic beverage.

Health Risks Associated with the Abuse of Alcohol and Illicit Drugs

- * Alcohol is the most abused drug in the United States today.
- * Alcohol is a drug that acts on the brain. It is potentially addicting, both physically and mentally.
- * Alcohol abuse is irresponsible drinking which harms or endangers the drinker or other people.
- * Alcohol abuse can result in violence, poor judgment, and loss of coordination.
- * Alcoholism is a disease characterized by a physical and mental dependence on alcohol.
- * Alcohol consumed in heavy amounts over a period of years can result in damage to your health. It can cause malnutrition, brain damage, cancer to the mouth, stomach and esophagus, heart disease, liver damage, ulcers and gastritis as well as damage to other body organs.
- * Prolonged excessive drinking can shorten life spans by 10 to 12 years.
- * Drug abuse is a major problem that results when drugs are used improperly.
- * Drug abuse is using natural or synthetic chemical substances for nonmedical reasons to affect the body, mind and behavior.
- * Abusing drugs can be dangerous especially when they are taken for a long time, in the wrong combinations or in excess.
- * If you take drugs, you risk overdose and dependence, both physical and psychological.
- * Long term drug abuse can lead to mental illness, malnutrition, and organ damage.
- * The risk of AIDS, hepatitis and other diseases increases if drugs are injected.
- * When drugs make you lose control, you may do things beyond your ability and take foolish risks. Accidents and injuries can result to you and others.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE CAMPUS

* Abusing drugs can also cause legal, economic, and personal problems.

* People who abuse drugs often need help. Breaking a drug habit without outside help can be dangerous because of withdrawal symptoms and difficult because of the psychological need.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Resources

If you need assistance with a drug or alcohol problem, the following counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation services and programs may be called for help.

Local Assistance:

Ridgewater College Counselors

(320) 222-5971

State Employee Assistance Program

(651) 259-3840 or 1-800-657-3719

Community Assistance:**Hutchinson**

Hutchinson Alcoholics Anonymous/Alanon
1170 Highway 7 West
Hutchinson, MN 55350
(320) 587-8436

Hutchinson Senior Center
1005 Highway 15 South, Plaza 15
Hutchinson, MN 55350
(587) 234-5656

Hutchinson Community Hospital
Mental Health Services
1095 Highway 15 South
Hutchinson, MN 55350
(320) 234-4600

Mental Health Helpline (24 hours)
(320) 587-5502

New Beginnings
109 North Shore Drive
Waverly, MN 55390
1-800-487-8758

Project Turnabout Addiction Recovery Centers
660 18th Street
Granite Falls, MN 546241
(320) 564-4911 or 1-800-862-1453

Veterans Resource Center
Ridgewater College, Room 405
(320) 222-5634

Willmar

Willmar Alcoholics Anonymous/Alanon
1805 East Highway 12
Willmar, MN 56201
(320) 235-3413

Cardinal Recovery Center
Suite 323 Cardinal Center
316 Becker Avenue Southwest
Willmar, MN 56201
(320) 231-6600

DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE CAMPUS

Kandiyohi County Family Services Department
Social Service Division
2200 23rd St Northeast, Suite 1020
Willmar, MN 56201
(320) 231-7800

CARE – Community Addiction & Recovery
1801 Technology Dr NE
Willmar, MN 56201
(320) 231-5468

Woodland Centers, Main Outpatient Clinic/
Crisis and Detox Center
Willmar Avenue and SE Sixth Street
Willmar, MN 56201
(320) 235-4613 or 1-800-992-1716

Veterans Resource Center
Ridgewater College, Room A241
(320) 222-5634

National Assistance:

Alcoholics Anonymous

www.aa.org

Narcotics Anonymous

www.na.org

National Clearing House for Alcohol and
Drug Information

1-866-587-8813
www.drug-help.com

National Institute on Drug Abuse

www.nida.nih.gov

Treatment Locator Website

www.samhsa.gov/find-treatment

History:

02.02.06 Adopted and Implemented

01.02.07 Revised

04.27.09 Revised

10.05.17 Proposed; 02.21.18 Revised

09.20.22 Proposed; Reviewed and Revised for Equity Compliance

11.15.22 Revised