



Springfield Technical Community College

Exceptional Education. Proven Results.

One Armory Square
Suite 1 • PO Box 9000
Springfield, MA 01102-9000
(413) 781-7822 • www.stcc.edu

In 1989, Congress amended Title XII of the Higher Education Act of 1965. This amendment, the “Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989,” requires that every educational institution, as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, certify its adoption and implement programs designed to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. STCC, in accordance with legal mandates and its commitment to establishing and maintaining a supportive learning and working environment, has established the following policies for students and employees.

The presence, possession and/or consumption of any alcoholic beverages on campus is prohibited anywhere at STCC, including the parking lots. Alcoholic beverage containers are not allowed on College property (whether empty or full) and will be confiscated. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination, and may include notifying the local police.

Any individual found possessing, using, selling or involved in any way with narcotics, psychedelic drugs or chemicals, or dangerous drugs on this campus, unless prescribed by a physician, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination, and may include notifying the local police.

Springfield Technical Community College, in accordance with legal mandates and its philosophy of establishing and maintaining an environment of learning and a supportive environment in which to conduct the business and mission of the College, will enforce the following policies:

1. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, and possession or use of alcohol or of a controlled substance is prohibited on the campus of STCC or as part of any College-related activity. Furthermore, marijuana use and possession, even for medical purposes, is prohibited. Individuals who violate these restrictions shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination, and shall also be subject to referral for criminal prosecution.
2. STCC shall cooperate in the enforcement of federal and state laws concerning illegal drugs and alcoholic beverages. Massachusetts's statutes pertaining to illegal drugs and alcohol include:
 - Mass. General Laws, Chapter 94C, (Controlled Substances Act)
 - Mass. General Laws, Chapter 272, Section 59 (Public Drinking)
 - Mass. General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 24 (Operating Under the Influence, Open Containers)
 - Mass. General Laws, Chapter 138, Section 34C (Minor in Possession of Alcohol)
 - Mass. General Laws, Chapter 138, Section 22 (Unlawful Transportation of Alcohol)
 - Acts of 2012, Chapter 369 (Medical Marijuana)

Penalties for violating these laws may include a fine, mandatory probation, loss of license to operate a motor vehicle, or imprisonment. Enhanced penalties are provided under law for possession with intent to distribute controlled substances and distributing of a controlled substance to a minor.

Federal judicial guidelines also exist which impose penalties for violation of federal criminal statutes related to drugs and alcohol. Cities or towns within the College's service area may have similar or additional penalties in place related to alcohol and drug use.



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3. Parents or legal guardians of students under twenty-one (21) years of age will be notified each time the student has been determined to be in violation of the campus drug or alcohol policy.
4. No Student Activities funds shall be used to purchase alcoholic beverages. STCC's policy additionally prohibits alcoholic beverages at any College event (on or off campus) that is intended for students or student participation. A "College event" is one that utilizes College facilities or College funds, or is represented as being a College function. All purchase orders for student events will positively exclude payments for alcoholic beverages. Faculty and professional staff who serve as advisors or chaperones to such events should understand that they will be expected to monitor the implementation of the Drug and Alcohol Policy.

It is a known fact that a person's physical and emotional health can be affected by the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Stimulants (such as cocaine/crack or amphetamines) and depressants (such as alcohol and tranquilizers) are the most commonly abused drugs.

Alcohol, even in small amounts, can slow reflexes, reduce coordination, impair judgment and cause mood changes. Research statistics have shown that the majority of violent behaviors exhibited by people, including vandalism, acquaintance rape, fights, driving accidents, has involved alcohol. Prolonged alcohol consumption can result in brain damage, heart problems and liver damage. Alcohol use during pregnancy may cause birth defects in the child.

Marijuana may affect short-term memory, coordination, depth perception, male sperm production, and the immune system. THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, is stored in the body's fat cells and testing will still show residue evidence even after a month. THC can also be recovered in hair when tested as long as six months after use. Tranquilizers, such as barbiturates and benzodiazepines, are prescribed to relieve anxiety, tension and sleep problems; however, when taken in excessive amounts, can cause impaired judgment, slurred speech and loss of motor control. Tranquilizers are highly addictive, even at lower doses, and in combination with alcohol or other drugs, may cause coma or death.

Cocaine/crack, though effects are unpredictable, may cause confusion, hallucinations, destruction of nasal membranes, and when smoked, lesions in the lungs. Addiction to cocaine occurs rapidly. Cocaine withdrawal results in severe depression and fatigue. Convulsions, coma and death are possible with even small amounts.

Hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, Mescaline/Peyote) cause illusions and hallucinations, poor perception of time and distance, paranoia, anxiety and loss of control. Since the drugs block pain receptors in the brain, violent episodes of self-inflicted injury may result. "Flashbacks" may occur even after use of the drugs has stopped.

The College will present campus-wide drug and alcohol education programs on an annual basis. This is in addition to other educational opportunities available in current or future academic offerings.

For any member of the STCC community who is experiencing alcohol or substance abuse problems, STCC stands ready to offer supportive services and referrals for treatment as appropriate. Employees should contact the Human Resources Office while students should contact Health Services or the Dean of Student Affairs Office for assistance.



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Treatment covered by student health insurance. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, 7B (St. 1988), Chapter 23, 22, and 117 Code of Massachusetts Regulations Section 3.04 require that students certify their participation in a qualifying student health insurance program, or in a health benefits program with comparable coverage. Students who do not possess adequate medical insurance must purchase the Massachusetts community college student health insurance plan. **This plan provides the following benefits related to drug and alcohol abuse:**

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

A detailed description of 2017-18 benefits for treatment of mental disorders, including substance abuse, is available at www.commonwealthstudent.com by clicking on “Springfield Technical Community College.”

The College shall conduct a review of these policies and programs, and implement changes as necessary.

Marijuana Policy

Although Massachusetts law permits the use of medical marijuana and the possession, use, distribution, and cultivation of marijuana in limited amounts, federal law, including the Federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970, the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, prohibits the possession, use, distribution, and/or cultivation of marijuana at educational institutions. Further, as marijuana remains classified as an illegal narcotic under federal law, institutions of higher education that receive federal funding are required to maintain policies prohibiting the possession and use of marijuana on their campuses. Accordingly, the possession, use, distribution or cultivation of marijuana, even for medical purposes, is prohibited on all community college property. Further, this policy prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of all marijuana accessories and marijuana products. Marijuana accessories shall include, but are not limited to, any device or equipment used for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing marijuana into the human body. Marijuana products shall include, but are not limited to, products that are comprised of marijuana and other ingredients and are intended for use or consumption, such as, but not limited, to edible products.

Violations of this policy by any student or employee shall result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination.