



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.

Springfield Technical Community College, in accordance with legal mandates and its mission and philosophy of establishing and maintaining a safe and supportive learning and working environment, will enforce the following laws and policies:

1. The presence, possession and/or consumption of any alcoholic beverages on STCC property, including parking lots and leased or licensed spaces, or at College sponsored events, is strictly prohibited. Any alcoholic beverages found on College property will be confiscated. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination, and may also be subject to referral for criminal prosecution.
2. The presence, possession and/or use of controlled substances on STCC property, including parking lots and leased or licensed spaces, or at College sponsored events, is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, marijuana use and possession, even for medical purposes, is prohibited. Any individual found possessing, using, or distributing any controlled substances, including, but not limited to, narcotics, opioids, psychedelic drugs or chemicals, without a prescription from a licensed physician, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination, and may also be subject to referral for criminal prosecution.
3. STCC shall cooperate in the enforcement of federal and state laws concerning controlled substances and alcoholic beverages. Massachusetts's statutes pertaining to controlled substances 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)
 - Mass. General Laws, Chapter 94G (Personal Use of Marijuana)
 - Federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970
 - Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988
 - Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989

Penalties for violating these laws may include arrest, 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.

4. Parents or legal guardians of students under twenty-one (21) years of age may be notified each time the student has been determined to be in violation of the campus drug or alcohol policy.



5. 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 explicitly exclude payments for alcoholic beverages. Faculty and professional staff who serve as advisors or chaperones to such events shall understand that they are expected to monitor the implementation and enforcement of the College's 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. Opioids (including fentanyl), stimulants (such as cocaine/crack or amphetamines) and depressants (such as alcohol and tranquilizers) are the most commonly abused drugs. In some cases severe, physical dependency can result after just one use.

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 or drug use can result in brain damage, heart problems, liver damage, and/or death. Alcohol or drug use during pregnancy may cause birth defects in the child.

Marijuana may negatively 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 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.

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 2018-19 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 or at College sponsored events and activities. Also prohibited is the operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana on Community College property or at College sponsored events or activities. 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 in accordance with applicable College policies or collective bargaining agreements.