

DRUG FREE CAMPUS

PHILOSOPHY

At Taft College, it is recognized that an academic community is harmed in many ways by the abuse of alcohol and the use of other drugs. Decreased productivity of members of the community, serious health problems, and strained social interactions are all possible products of such abuse. Problems associated with the illicit use and abuse of substances have a pervasive impact upon an academic community and are not associated with a singular socioeconomic group or age level. The processes of education and learning are especially impaired by alcohol abuse and the use of illicit drugs.

The foundation of the philosophy concerning alcohol and drug abuse for Taft College is a firm commitment to an educational program which provides adequate information and counseling to make informed and responsible decisions concerning the use of any controlled substance. The college is committed to a healthy environment for learning and living.

HEALTH RISKS

Alcohol Abuse

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects just described.

Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol

withdrawal can be life threatening. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver.

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than other youngsters of becoming alcoholics.

Drug Abuse

The legal term for illegal drugs is "controlled substances." These are drugs that may not be used without proper medical authorization. The adverse effects of controlled substances are as follows:

Category	Types of Drugs/Trade Names included in Category	Possible Effects
Narcotics	Opium, Morphine, Heroin	Drowsiness, Constricted Pupils, Nausea, Convulsions, Coma, Possible Death
Depressants	Barbiturates, Valium, Quaaludes	Slurred Speech, Disorientation, Dilated Pupils, Weak and Rapid Pulse, Possible Death
Stimulants	Cocaine, Amphetamines, Ritalin	Increase Pulse Rate and Blood Pressure, Insomnia, Loss of Appetite, Hallucinations, Convulsions, Possible Death
Hallucinogens	LSD, Mescaline, PCP	Illusions, Poor Perception of Time and Distance, Psychosis, Possible Death
Cannabis	Marijuana, THC, Hashish	Relaxed Inhibitions, Increased Appetite, Disoriented Behavior, Fatigue, Paranoia

POLICY

The policy of the Board of Trustees of the West Kern Community College District regarding the prohibition against illegal drugs and alcohol for employees reads as follows:

- Illegal drug and alcohol use is highly detrimental to the workplace and to the efficiency and productivity the district desires to promote.
- The use, possession, distribution or sale of illegal drugs or alcohol, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, is strictly prohibited while on the district premises, while representing the district on district business, or while operating a vehicle on duty.
- Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, possibly including discharge.

LEGAL SANCTIONS

Employees are reminded that federal and state laws provide for a variety of legal sanctions and penalties for the unlawful possession or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol. These sanctions include, but are not limited to, incarceration and monetary fines.

The Federal controlled Substances Act provides penalties of up to 15 years imprisonment and fines of up to \$25,000 for unlawful distribution or possession with intent to distribute narcotics. For unlawful possession of a controlled substance, a person is subject to up to one year of imprisonment and fines up to \$5,000. Any person who unlawfully distributes a controlled substance to a person under twenty-one years of age may be punished by up to twice the term of imprisonment and fine otherwise authorized by law.

California law provides that any person, who possesses, possesses for sale, transports, imports into the state, sells, furnishes, administers, or gives away designated controlled substances is guilty of a felony offense. Depending upon the specific offense, the individual may be punished by imprisonment for one to five years. Also, it should be noted that California is one of the few states in which being under the influence of a controlled substance is a misdemeanor, and an individual is subject to arrest.

In California, possessing an ounce or less of marijuana is considered an infraction and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100. Possessing more than an ounce of marijuana is a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not more than six months or a fine of not more than \$500, or by both. Every person who transports, imports into the state, sells, furnishes, administers, or gives away marijuana shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of two to four years.

Section 25608 of the California Business and Professions Code provides that every person who possesses, consumes, sells, gives, or delivers to any other person, any alcoholic beverage in or on any public school-house or any of the grounds thereof, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

TREATMENT SERVICES

Narcotics Anonymous 1 (877) NAWORKZ (Help Line)
Alcoholics Anonymous (661) 765-2630 or
(661) 765-5942 or
Al Anon (for the family of Alcoholics)