



ANNUAL NOTIFICATION of ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS PREVENTION PROGRAM AND POLICY, 2026-27

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Arkansas Tech University is committed to the maintenance of a drug and alcohol free work place and to a standard of conduct for employees and students that discourages the unlawful or unauthorized use, possession, storage, manufacture, distribution, or sale of alcoholic beverages and any illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia in University buildings, any public campus area, in University housing units, in University vehicles, or at any University affiliated events held on or off-campus, which are sponsored by students, employees and their respective campus organizations (including all fraternities and sororities). For Arkansas Tech University employees, compliance with this policy is a term and condition of employment. For Arkansas Tech University students and student organizations, compliance with this policy is a term and condition of continued enrollment/organizational registration.

LEGAL SANCTIONS

Federal Penalties and Sanctions for Illegal Possession of a Controlled Substance – 1st conviction: Up to 1 year imprisonment and a fine of at least \$1,000 but not more than \$100,000, or both. After 1 prior drug conviction: At least 15 days in prison, not to exceed 2 years and a fine of at least \$2,500 but not more than \$250,000 or both. After 2 or more prior drug convictions: At least 90 days in prison, not to exceed 3 years and a fine of at least \$5,000 but not more than \$250,000 or both. Special sentencing provisions for possession of crack cocaine are mandatory 5 to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000; both if (a) 1st conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 5 grams, (b) 2nd crack conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 3 grams (c) 3rd or subsequent crack conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 1 gram. Personal and real property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance may be forfeited if that offense is punishable by more than 1 year imprisonment. Vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other conveyance used to transport or conceal a controlled substance may also be forfeited. Additional sanctions include civil fines of up to \$10,000; denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional commercial licenses, up to 1 year for first offense, up to 5 years for second and subsequent offenses; and ineligibility to receive or purchase a firearm. Other sanctions vested within the authorities of individual federal agencies are revocation of certain federal licenses and benefits such as pilot licenses and public housing.

State of Arkansas Sanctions and Penalties

- **Underage DUI Law** – The State of Arkansas' "Underage DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Law" (863) makes it an offense for a person under the age of 21 with a blood alcohol content of .02 or higher (approximately one can of beer, one glass of wine, or one drink of hard liquor) to operate a motorized vehicle. Penalties for a first offense can result in (1) suspension of driver's license for not less than 90 days; (2) a fine of no less than \$100 or more than \$500; (3) assignment to public service work; and/or (4) completion of an alcohol and driving education program.
- **Driving While Intoxicated** – A person who drives a motorized vehicle while influenced or affected by the ingestion of alcohol, a controlled substance, or any intoxicant commits the offense of driving while intoxicated. Penalties for such an offense may include (1) suspension of license for 120 days for the first offense with a blood alcohol content of at least .08; suspension of 180 days for the first offense with a blood alcohol content of .15 or more; suspension for 6 months for first offense if intoxicated by use of a controlled substance; (2) imprisonment for no less than 24 hours and no more than one year for the first offense (with additional imprisonment for subsequent offense); (3) fines of no less than \$150 and no more than \$1,000 for the first offense (with stiffer fines for subsequent offenses); (4) as inability to pay fines; and (5) a requirement to complete an alcohol education program as prescribed and approved by the Arkansas Highway Safety Program, or an alcoholism treatment program as approved by the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention. A blood alcohol level in excess of .04 may be considered with other competent evidence in determining guilt or innocence. A blood alcohol level of .08 or more shall give rise to a presumption of intoxication.
- **Public Intoxication** – A person commits the offense of "Public Intoxication" if (1) he appears in a public place manifestly under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance to the degree that he is likely to endanger himself or other persons or property, or (2) he unreasonable annoys persons in his vicinity. Public intoxication is a Class C misdemeanor, and can result in a fine of up to \$100, and/or imprisonment in the county jail (or other authorized institution) for up to 30 days.
- **Drinking in Public** – A person commits the offense of "Drinking in Public" if that person consumes alcohol in any public place. This includes consumption while in a vehicle on a street or highway. Penalties include a fine of up to \$100 and/or imprisonment for up to 30 days. Possession of any alcoholic beverages in Tech residence halls or on any other University property is prohibited.
- **Possession of Alcohol by a Minor** – It is illegal for a person under the age of 21 to possess alcohol. Penalties include a fine of up to \$500, probation under the direction of the court, and driver's license suspension for a period of up to one year.
- **Knowingly Furnishing to a Minor** – A person commits the offense of "Knowingly Furnishing to a Minor" if, being an adult, he or she knowingly purchases for or provides alcoholic beverage to a minor. Such an offense is a Class C misdemeanor and can result in (1) a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or (2) imprisonment in the county jail (or other authorized institution) for up to one full year.
- **Manufacture or Delivery of a Controlled Substance** – It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, deliver, or possess with intent to manufacture or deliver, a controlled substance. Penalties for the manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance can range from three (3) years to life in prison and fines up to \$250,000, depending on the quantity and type of drug. In addition, real and personal property used in the manufacture, delivery, or importing of controlled substances may be forfeited to the government.
- **Manufacture or Delivery of a Counterfeit Substance** – It is unlawful for any person to create, deliver, or possess with intent to deliver a counterfeit substance purporting to be a controlled substance. Penalties for the creating and/or delivery of a counterfeit substance can range from 1 to 20 years in prison and fines up to \$15,000, depending on the type of drug being counterfeited.
- **Possession of a Controlled or Counterfeit Substance** – It is unlawful for any person to possess a controlled substance or counterfeit substance. Penalties for possession of a controlled or counterfeit substance can range from 1 to 10 years in prison and fines up to \$10,000, depending on the type of drug (or counterfeit) possessed.

HEALTH RISKS

- **Alcohol** – Can cause short term effects such as loss of concentration and judgment; slowed reflexes; disorientation leading to higher risk of accidents and problem behavior; long term effects include risk of liver and heart damage, malnutrition, cancer and other illnesses; can be highly addictive to some persons.
- **Amphetamines** – Can cause short term effects such as rushed, careless behavior and pushing beyond your physical capacity, leading to exhaustion; tolerance increases rapidly; long term effects include physical and psychological dependence and withdrawal can result in depression and suicide; continued high doses can cause heart problems, infections, malnutrition and death.
- **Cannabis (Marijuana)**– Can cause short term effects such as slow reflexes; increases forgetfulness; alters judgment of space and distance; aggravates pre-existing heart and/or mental health problems; long term health effects include permanent damage to lungs, reproductive organs and brain function; can interfere with physical, psychological, social development of young users.
- **Cocaine (Crack)** – Can cause short term effects such as impaired judgment; increased breathing, heart rate, heart palpitations; anxiety, restlessness, hostility, paranoia, confusion; long term effects may include damage to respiratory and immune systems; malnutrition, seizures and loss of brain function; highly addictive.
- **Designer Drugs/Synthetic Cannabinoids (bath salts, K2, spice)** – Can cause short term effects such as elevated heart rate, blood pressure and chest pain; hallucinations, seizures, violent behavior and paranoia; may lead to lack of appetite, vomiting and tremor; long-term use may result in kidney/liver failure; increased risk of suicide and death.
- **Hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, ecstasy, dextromethorphan)** – Can cause extreme distortions of what’s seen and heard; induces sudden changes in behavior, loss of concentration and memory; increases risk of birth defects in user’s children; overdose can cause psychosis, convulsions, coma and death; frequent and long-term use can cause permanent loss of mental function.
- **Inhalants (nitrous oxide, amyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, chlorohydrocarbons, hydrocarbons)** – Can cause short term effects such as nausea, dizziness, fatigue, slurred speech, hallucinations or delusions; may lead to rapid and irregular heart rhythms, heart failure and death; long-term use may result in loss of feeling, hearing and vision; can result in permanent damage to the brain, heart, lungs, liver and kidneys.
- **Opiates/Narcotics (heroin, morphine, opium, codeine, oxycodone, china white)** – Can cause physical and psychological dependence; overdose can cause coma, convulsions, respiratory arrest and death; long term use leads to malnutrition, infection and hepatitis; sharing needles is a leading cause of the spread of HIV and hepatitis; highly addictive, tolerance increases rapidly.
- **Sedatives** – Can cause reduced reaction time and confusion; overdose can cause coma, respiratory arrest, convulsions and death; withdrawal can be dangerous; in combination with other controlled substances, can quickly cause coma and death; long term use can produce physical and psychological dependence; tolerance increases rapidly.
- **Tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco)** – Smoking increases the risk for myocardial infarction (heart attack) and can cause cancer, particularly lung cancer and cancers of the larynx and mouth; can cause diseases of the respiratory tract such as COPD and emphysema as well as diseases of the cardiovascular system; nicotine is highly addictive.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS

Arkansas Tech University utilizes evidenced-based strategic interventions, collaboration, innovation and the incorporation of the wellness dimensions to reduce harmful consequences of alcohol and other drug use. Drug and alcohol programming includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing education and awareness activities.
- Offering substance-free social, extracurricular, and public service options.
- Creating a health-promoting normative environment.
- Restricting the marketing and promotion of alcohol and other drugs.
- Limiting availability of alcohol and other drugs.
- Developing and enforcing campus policies to address high-risk and illegal alcohol and other drug use, including the tobacco free campus policy.
- Providing early intervention and referral for treatment.

Local Treatment Facilities

Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center

Hwy 23 North and Airport Road
Ozark, AR 72949
(479) 667-2497
www.wacgc.org

New Vision at Summit Medical Center

East Main and South 20th Streets
Van Buren, AR 72957
(479) 471-4600
www.summitmedicalcenter.net/medical-services/inpatient-services

Harbor House

615 N 19th St.
Fort Smith, AR 72901
(479) 785-4083

Gateway House

3900 Armour Ave
Fort Smith, AR 72904
(479) 783-8849

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

Students violating the University policy on alcohol or other drugs are subject to sanctions up to and including expulsion from the University and referral for prosecution. Any employee violating any criminal drug statute while in the work place will be subject to discipline up to and including termination. The University may notify parents or guardians of students under age 21 who are found to be in violation of the drug or alcohol policies as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.