Drug and Alcohol Policies

The following outlines the College’s policy regarding not only unlawful drug use, but also situations involving students who are under the influence and/or in possession of controlled substances, in accordance with the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989.

1. The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences seeks to provide an environment in which students may experience intellectual, emotional, physical, social, and personal growth. The development of the capacity to make informed decisions about drugs, including responsible choices about the consumption of alcohol, is a significant component of personal growth. The responsibility for making informed choices regarding drugs and the use of alcohol rests with everyone in the College.

2. Drug and alcohol education supports all members of the College program to make informed and responsible decisions about drugs and alcohol. Education has two (2) primary components: first, to provide education for all students and personnel of the College community regarding the academic, social, legal, and health-related effects of drug and alcohol use and misuse; second, to provide access and referral for the assessment of and treatment for individuals with drug and alcohol-related problems. It is assumed that our commitment to providing education in addition to health counseling and ongoing support services will be matched by responsible behavior with respect to alcohol and other drugs.

3. The college drug and alcohol policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, and student organizations who conduct activities on or off campus. Adhering to this policy is critical to the success of The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences comprehensive drug and alcohol efforts and college mission statement.

4. The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences prohibits the illegal use, possession, sale, manufacture, or distribution of drugs and alcohol on the school’s property or as part of any of the school’s activities. In addition, the misuse of substances that present physical or psychological hazards to individuals is prohibited.

5. It is at the discretion of the Board of Nursing in each state to determine if a student’s history of using drugs or alcohol will prohibit them from obtaining a nursing license.

6. If a student is found in violation of these Drug and Alcohol Policies, sanctions will be determined by college administration. These could include but are not limited to: written warning, parental notification, educational sanction (a required activity that engages the student in a positive learning experience), limitations on activities, restitution, probation, suspension, or dismissal from the College.

7. Please see The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences Department of Nursing Program Handbook for policies related to drug and alcohol use in the clinical setting under the Student Conduct While Providing Nursing Care Policy.

Chemical Dependency Policy

Chemical dependency is recognized as a disease for which there is effective treatment and rehabilitation. It is defined as a disease in which a person’s consumption of any mood-altering chemical that definitively and repeatedly interferes with that individual’s health and/or job performance. Students who suspect that they may have a chemical dependency problem, even in its early stages, are encouraged to seek diagnosis and to follow through with the treatment that may be prescribed by qualified professionals in order to arrest the disease as soon as possible.

1. Since substance abuse has become a nation-wide problem, The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences has conducted pre-entry drug screenings for all matriculated students.

2. It will be the responsibility of the administration to assure that no chemically dependent student will have school enrollment jeopardized by a request for diagnosis and treatment.

3. The decision to request diagnosis and accept treatment for chemical dependency is the personal responsibility of the individual.

4. A student refusing to accept referral for diagnosis or to follow prescribed treatment may be referred to administrative personnel for disposition in accordance with the College’s Code of Conduct.

5. It is at the discretion of the Board of Nursing in each state to determine whether or not a student’s history of chemical dependency will prohibit their ability to obtain a nursing license.
Health Risks Associated with Chemical Dependency

- All drugs and alcohol can have side effects. Their influences can affect the safety and wellbeing of the users as well as those around them.
- Illicit drugs can interfere with important brain activities including but not limited to coordination, memory and learning. They can also increase the risk of lung cancer, destroy liver cells, initiate severe weight loss and in some cases weaken the immune system. Users may also experience abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, rapid heartbeat irregular breathing, convulsions, and coma. Combining drugs can be fatal.
- Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant that is absorbed into the blood stream and transmitted to all parts of the body. Moderate doses reduce physical coordination and mental alertness while larger doses of alcohol drastically impair an individual’s ability to function, sometimes rendering them unconscious. Long term drinking can increase the risk of developing liver and heart disease, circulatory and stomach problems, various forms of cancer and causes irreversible brain damage.
- For more information about the health risks associated with chemical dependency please see www.drugabuse.gov

Rehabilitation Resources for Students with Chemical Dependency

- IMPACT Student Assistance Program—1-866-780-0855.
- Center for Chemical Addictions Treatment- www.ccatsober.org
  - 24 Hour Detoxification Services: CCAT’s detoxification program offers 24 hour nursing care, with a staff that is sensitive to your individual withdrawal symptoms and needs. The average stay for 24 Hour Detoxification is 3-5 days.
  - Suboxone- Medication to assist in opiate addiction treatment and withdrawal.
  - Short-term Residential Treatment- Focus on Recovery: CCAT's Short-Term Residential Treatment Program provides individual attention and education to help you focus on recovery. CCAT's trained professionals will educate you on the effects of drug and alcohol abuse, relapse prevention, HIV/AIDS education, stress management and other areas touched by chemical dependency. Other sessions include art and recreation, morning meditation, spirituality discussions, and more. Based on your needs and progress, a stay generally averages 28 days.
  - Strengthening Families Program: CCAT works to rebuild families affected by addiction in this program. Families will learn how to best support their loved one on his/her path to sobriety. After each group meeting, time is set aside for families to visit with their loved one and begin the rebuilding process.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Cincinnati- www.aacincinnati.org
  - Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.
  - AA membership features person-to-person (“sponsorship) mentoring and education for anyone seeking help with an alcohol addiction, a 12-step program, and group meetings.
- Alcoholism Council of the Cincinnati Area (NCADD)- www.alcoholismcouncil.org
  - The Recovery Health Access Center (RHAC): RHAC provides information and services including prevention programs, clinical assessments, and treatment referrals to Hamilton County (Ohio) residents. Trained professionals conduct a detailed screening for alcohol and drug use problems, and, when needed, make an appropriate referral within the Hamilton County Alcohol/Drug Addiction Services network. Clinicians also offer full chemical dependency assessments that are designed to identify the most appropriate care.
- Talbert House- www.talberthouse.org
  - Adult Behavioral Health: Mental health and substance abuse assessment and treatment programs for adults throughout Greater Cincinnati and surrounding counties. Behavioral health professionals focus on the success of each individual through prevention, case management, and outpatient treatment.
Youth Behavioral Health: Mental health and substance abuse services include prevention, case management, outpatient treatment and wraparound delivered in the community, schools and residential facilities

Housing: The housing service line assists transitional youth, adults and families who need housing and other support services in scattered sites and designated apartment buildings throughout the community. Talbert House offers permanent supportive housing, transitional housing and rent vouchers/subsidies. To determine if you are eligible and/or space is available, contact 513-221-HELP (4357).

Legal Sanctions Related to Drugs and Alcohol

The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences supports the full enforcement of federal, state, and local legal sanctions described in the following pages.

Federal Law

- Federal law prohibits, among other things, the manufacturing, distributing, selling and possession of controlled substances as outlined in 21 United States Code, Sections 801 through 971. Depending on the amount, first offense maximum penalties for trafficking marijuana range from up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to $250,000 to imprisonment for life and a fine of $4 million. Depending on the amount, first offense maximum penalties for trafficking other controlled substances (e.g., methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, cocaine base, PCP, LSD, fentanyl and fentanyl analogue) range from five years to life imprisonment and fines range from $2 to $4 million. First offense penalties and sanctions for the illegal possession of small amounts of controlled substances, including marijuana, range from up to one year in prison or a fine of at least $1,000. Penalties are more severe for subsequent offenses.
- Convictions for federal drug offenses can also result in the loss of eligibility for federal financial aid.

State Law, Alcohol

- Ohio Revised Code (“O.R.C.”) Section 4301.63 provides that no person under the age of 21 years shall purchase beer or intoxicating liquor. The penalty for a violation may include a fine of not less than $25, but no more than $100 may be imposed. The court may order that the fine be paid by the performance of public work at a reasonable hourly rate established by the court and shall designate the time within which the public work shall be completed.
- O.R.C. Section 4301.631 provides that no underage person can purchase low alcohol beverages, that no person may furnish low alcohol beverages to an underage person, and that no person shall allow underage persons to consume low alcohol beverages on his or her property. Punishments for violating O.R.C. Section 4301.631 range from fines of $25 to $250 and imprisonment up to 30 days.
- O.R.C. Section 4301.633 provides that no person shall knowingly furnish any false information as to the name, age, or other identification of any person under 21 years of age for the purpose of obtaining beer or intoxicating liquor for a person under 21 years of age, by purchase or as a gift. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a $1,000 fine.
- O.R.C. Section 4301.634 provides that no person under the age of 21 years shall knowingly show or give false information concerning his name, age, or other identification for the purpose of purchasing or otherwise obtaining beer or intoxicating liquor in any place in this state where beer or intoxicating liquor is sold under a permit issued by the department of liquor control. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a $1,000 fine.
- O.R.C. Section 4301.64 prohibits the consumption of any beer or intoxicating liquor in a motor vehicle. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 30 days and a $250 fine.
- O.R.C. Section 4301.69(A) prohibits selling beer or intoxicating liquor to a person under the age of 21 years, or buying it for or furnishing it to such a person. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor. The
O.R.C. Section 4301.69(E) provides that no underage person shall knowingly possess or consume any beer or intoxicating liquor, in any public or private place, unless he is accompanied by a parent, spouse, or legal guardian, who is not an underage person, or unless the beer or intoxicating liquor is given for medical or religious purposes. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a $1,000 fine.

O.R.C. Section 4511.19 prohibits any person from driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or any drug of abuse. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a $1,075 fine, in addition to license suspension and attendance satisfactory completion of a treatment or education program. Penalties for repeat offenders can result in up to 5 years in prison and an increase in fines.

State Law, Drugs

O.R.C. Section 2925.03 provides that no person shall knowingly “traffic” in controlled or illicit substances, including marijuana. Trafficking includes selling, offering to sell, delivering, distributing, preparing, cultivating, and manufacturing of controlled substances. The penalty is mandatory fines ranging from $100 to $20,000, depending on offense and drug involved, and mandatory jail sentences ranging from 6 months to 10 years.

O.R.C. Section 2925.11 provides that no person shall knowingly obtain, possess, or use a controlled substance. Drug abuse offenses involving amounts of marijuana less than 100 grams carries a penalty of not more than $150. Possessing larger amounts of marijuana will result in more severe penalties up to a mandatory jail term of not more than 8 years and a fine of up to $15,000. Drug abuse offenses involving other drugs may result in jail terms of up to 11 years and fines of $20,000.

O.R.C. Section 2925.12 provides that no person shall make obtain, possess, or use drug abuse instruments. A first offense can carry a jail term of up to 90 days and fines of $750, plus driver’s license suspension for a period of six months to five years.

O.R.C. Section 2925.14 provides that no person shall knowingly use, possess with purpose to use, sell, manufacture or advertise drug paraphernalia. Depending upon the facts, the penalty is imprisonment up to 6 months and fines up to $1,000.

O.R.C. Section 2925.31 provides, except for lawful research, clinical, medical, dental, or veterinary purposes, no person with intent to induce intoxication or similar effect, shall obtain, possess, or use a harmful intoxicant. The penalty is fines up to $1,000 and 6 months in jail, plus driver’s license suspension for a period of six months to five years.

O.R.C. Section 2925.37 provides that no person shall knowingly possess, make, sell, or deliver counterfeit controlled substances. Depending upon the facts, the penalty can be up to 180 days in jail and a $1,000 fine, and result in a driver’s license suspension for a period of six months to five years. Aggravating circumstances can also cause the offense to become a felony of the fourth degree with prison terms between 6-18 months and a fine up to $5,000.

Local Law

The City of Cincinnati enforces all the state criminal statutes cited above. In addition, Cincinnati lists some additional sanctions for alcohol and other drug use, including without limitation, prohibitions against: driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; possession and consumption of alcohol while underage; providing alcohol to underage persons; having an open container of alcohol in public places; possession of a controlled substance; purchasing and consuming low-alcohol beverages by underage persons; using false representations by underage persons to obtain alcohol; permitting the consumption of alcohol by underage persons at a person's property (including hotel rooms); and hosting a party where alcohol or drug abuse occurs. Penalties for violation of these local laws include fines not to exceed $1,000 (plus court costs) and imprisonment for up to six months.

Tobacco Policy
The Christ Hospital and The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences prohibit the use of tobacco products (including electronic cigarettes) on its campuses, in its facilities and vehicles.

Patients, visitors, employees, physicians, students, volunteers, vendors, and contractors may not smoke or use tobacco products (including electronic cigarettes) on the campus of The Christ Hospital, within any facility on the TCH campus, or any off-site facilities and campuses. This includes all vehicles in parking areas and hospital vehicles off the property. The Christ Hospital also discourages the use of tobacco products (including electronic cigarettes) by employees or visitors on properties adjacent to hospital properties, to show respect for our neighbors. The administration of the College requests that students refrain from smoking at the foot of driveways and walls in the surrounding vicinity of the College on Auburn Avenue, as well as smoking near signage for The Christ Hospital or College.