



ROSS
UNIVERSITY

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POLICY ON SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

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Overview

Ross University School of Medicine, as an institution of higher education and health care, is committed to the continued and sustained health of its employees, its students and to the patients entrusted to Ross University employee and student care. As required by law, the University must implement a policy to prevent the unlawful possession, use or distribution of controlled substances on or within the Ross University premises, its associating facilities and during University-affiliated activities.

In addition to the personal negative effects on academic performance, judgment, cognizance physical health, and mental and emotional stability, individuals engaged in abuse pose a significant risk to the health and safety of fellow students, faculty and patients. Substance abuse and its influences compromise Ross University's commitment to excellence and education, thereby posing a threat to the mission of the University.

In addition, addiction to drugs or alcohol may prevent graduates from obtaining licensure and/ or practices in relevant professions.

Applicable Law

Ross University is required to adopt, implement and monitor a program to prevent the unlawful possession, distribution or use of controlled substances and alcohol by Ross University employees and students on University grounds or as part of its associative entities.

Prohibited Activities

Ross University strictly prohibits:

- The unlawful manufacturing, distribution, dispensing, use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs and controlled substances or the misuse of legal medications/drugs on the Ross University campus or the grounds of its affiliates (i.e. clinical teaching facilities).
- Being under the influence of or misusing any substance or alcohol, while participating in activities for, or in the name of the University, in a manner which may result in impairment or endanger the physical, mental and/or emotional well being of any person.

Any violation of the Policy on Substance and Alcohol Abuse is considered a violation of school conduct and is subject to the penalties of the school and of presiding local, state and federal jurisdictions.

Penalties/Sanctions

Laws of the United States, England and the Commonwealth of Dominica and other mandates require policies and procedures that stipulate sanctions for violations of standards for misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

University Sanctions

The Ross University School of Medicine Honor Code and its procedures govern all students. Violation of policies specific to alcohol and other drugs are considered violations of the Honor Code. They include the unlawful possession, use, manufacture, sale or distribution of alcohol and other drugs.

The illegal sale, distribution or manufacture of drugs may result in a challenge. Students are subject to challenge under the Honor Code if a violation occurs on or within a thirty (30) mile radius of the campus. Regardless of geographic boundaries, if a student has been convicted of a drug (or alcohol) related offense in a court of law, the student is subject to a challenge under the Honor Code and loss of financial aid eligibility.

Applicable sanctions include, but are not limited to, probation, probation and referral for treatment and rehabilitation, suspension or expulsion. The University may refer any case to the proper local, state and/or federal authorities for appropriate legal action. Individuals disciplined under the University Policy on Substance and Alcohol Abuse have the right to an appeal in accordance with applicable University grievance protocol.

External Sanctions

The sanctions imposed under the Policy on Substance and Alcohol Abuse neither diminishes nor replaces the penalties available under generally applicable civil or criminal laws. Violations of University standards may also violate federal, state and local laws of the United States, England and the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Violators will be subject to all appropriate penalties within the jurisdiction of the offense. Within the Commonwealth of Dominica jurisdiction, drug trafficking, which includes producing, supplying and use, is punishable by fines, deportation and/or imprisonment. Copies of the relevant drug laws are available in the University library.

Prevention & Assistance

Ross University will facilitate substance abuse prevention through general promotion of a substance-free educational environment, by informing students on current and subsequent changes to policies on alcohol and other drugs and through advocating an atmosphere where individuals with a problem are encouraged to seek help. The medical school curriculum incorporated information on the effects that alcohol and drugs have on both mental and physical health.

There are resources on campus and in the community available for assistance. Ross University counseling and health services are confidential and available to students without charge. **Students seeking assistance**

for a substance abuse problem will not be subject to sanctions by the University as a result of seeking such assistance.

For information or assistance with substance and/or alcohol abuse matters, or for information on programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), contact:

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