

OTERO JUNIOR COLLEGE
Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program

Colorado law prohibits the possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol and controlled substances on campus. In compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Amendments of 1989 (PL 101-226 in Federal Law), Otero Junior College has developed a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program.

Policy Statement – Employees and Students, whether full-time or part-time, shall not engage in the unauthorized or unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, use/abuse of alcohol and/or illicit drugs on college property or use as a part of any college activities.

Legal Sanctions for Violation of the Policy – Any employee or student who is convicted of the above violations is subject to criminal penalties under local, state and federal law. These penalties may range in severity from a fine of up to \$100.00 to life imprisonment and/or a fine of \$8,000,000. The exact penalty assessed depends upon the nature and severity of the individual offense.

College Sanctions for Violation of the Policy - Since observation of the policy is a condition of employment or enrollment, any violation may subject the employee/student to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination or suspension from the institution. Employees or Students may also be required to complete an appropriate rehabilitation or re-entry program as a condition for re-employment, re-enrollment or continued employment or enrollment in the college.

Associated Health Risks - Health risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse include, but are not limited to: malnutrition, brain damage, heart disease, pancreatitis, cirrhosis of the liver, mental illness, death, low birth weight babies, and babies with drug addictions.

Drug-Free Awareness Program - Although there are no alcohol/drug counseling programs on campus, the college does have referral agreements with the Southeast Mental Health Services and Region Six Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center. Referrals are made through the counseling staff working in the Student Services Center in McBride Hall or the student may contact the Colorado Department of Health directly.

Possession or Use of Marijuana - Although possession and use of marijuana consistent with the requirements of the Colorado Constitution is no longer a crime in the State of Colorado, the possession or use of marijuana remains illegal under federal law. Consistent with federal law, including the Controlled Substance Act and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, the use and/or possession of marijuana continues to be prohibited while a employee or student is on college owned or college controlled property, and/or any function authorized or supervised by the college and/or in state-owned or leased vehicles.

Medical Amnesty Policy

Student health and safety are of primary concern at Otero Junior College. As such, in cases of significant intoxication as a result of alcohol or other substances, the College encourages individuals to seek medical assistance for themselves or others.

If medical assistance is sought, the Vice President of Student Services will not pursue conduct charges against the following individuals for violations of the College's alcohol or drug policies:

- The intoxicated student and
- Student(s) actively assisting the intoxicated student.

Actively assisting requires that an individual:

Call La Junta Police Department (719-384-2525 or 911) or seek another individual qualified to assess the student's condition such as a Resident Hall Director or other Resident Hall professional and Monitor the intoxicated student's condition.

The following are not covered by the Medical Amnesty Policy:

- Students waiting until the police or other authority arrive before seeking assistance
- Action by police or other law enforcement personnel
- Violations of the Code of Conduct other than the alcohol/drugs policy
- Possession with the intent to distribute drugs

Actions by the Student Conduct Officer:

- The intoxicated student (and possibly those who were attending to/assisting the student) will be required to meet with the Vice President of Student Services or designee who may issue educational requirements that may include, but are not limited to, alcohol and/or drug education, counseling, and/or a substance abuse assessment.
- Serious or repeated incidents will prompt a higher degree of concern/response.
- Failure to complete the educational assignments or treatment recommendations normally will result in disciplinary action.
- The student will be responsible for any costs associated with drug or alcohol education interventions.

No individual may receive amnesty under this section more than once in a two year period. Records of all requests for assistance under this policy shall be maintained by the Vice President of Student Services. Participation in any program as a result of this policy shall not be noted on the student's judicial record. In the event an individual who previously utilized the Medical Amnesty Policy is involved in a subsequent alcohol-related incident, this incident and any resulting charges shall be treated as an alleged second offense.

The Medical Amnesty Policy is not intended to shield or protect those students or organizations that repeatedly violate the Code of Student Conduct. In cases where repeated violations of the Code of Student Conduct occur, the College reserves the right to take disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis regardless of the manner in which the incident was reported.

Medical amnesty applies only to alcohol or other drug-related emergencies but does not apply to other conduct violations such as assault, property damage, or distribution of illicit substances. If other violations occur, then a student will face disciplinary charges for those violations. The use/or abuse of alcohol or drugs is never considered a mitigating circumstance for any other violations of the Student Code of Conduct.