

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Substance Use Policy

The possession, use, consumption, manufacture, or distribution of any type of marijuana product and paraphernalia, controlled medication not prescribed by a healthcare provider, or illegal substance or its synthetic variation on University Property, in conjunction with any University-Sponsored Activities, or while enrolled as a student is specifically prohibited by Northwest University policy.

The university recognizes the potential negative impact to one's physical, psychological and developmental wellbeing in the use of certain products, specifically during the formative undergraduate years. Therefore, undergraduate students are to refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco in any form during their time of enrollment. Informed by Biblically guided choices and the broader faith community, students enrolled in graduate or College of Adult Professional Studies programs will exercise responsible freedom and obey all civil laws regarding the consumption of alcohol and tobacco products.

This policy reflects our conviction that such possession or consumption within the Northwest University community is inappropriate for health, educational, and developmental reasons. Criminal law informs us of the illegality of the possession and use of most mood-altering substances, and of alcohol by persons under the age of 21. The health risks associated with the use and abuse of these substances are numerous, including exaggerated mood swings from manic to severe depression, loss of memory and reduced cognitive ability, physical deterioration, and, in some cases, death. In addition, the potential of these substances to promote behavior that is destructive to both property and lives makes them unacceptable in a community committed to healthy development. For all of these reasons, we strongly believe that the presence and use of these substances on campus is counterproductive to the educational and personal development objectives of the Northwest University community.

Definitions

- "University activities" are defined as those activities that are sponsored by a University department or are sponsored by a recognized student organization occurring on or off-campus.
- "University property" is defined as University-owned or leased grounds, facilities, or vehicles.

Sanctions for Alcohol, Tobacco and Substance Abuse Violations

Northwest University reserves the right to conduct a search anywhere on University Property, including any campus residence or any vehicle that is located on University Property.

Any student who is found in violation of the above stated policy may receive Northwest University disciplinary sanctions, up to and including removal from campus housing, suspension, or dismissal from the university. Guests on any of the Northwest University campuses found in possession of these substances will be asked to leave the campus immediately and their future access to the campuses may be restricted.

Violations of city, county, state and federal laws regarding the use of illegal drugs and/or alcoholic beverages may result in referral to the proper local, state or federal law enforcement authorities as well as the University student accountability processes.

Description of City, State, and Federal Legal Sanctions

Local Sanctions

Kirkland Municipal Code (KMC) prohibits the following acts:

Alcohol offenses

Consumption of liquor. It is unlawful for any person under the age of twenty-one years to acquire in any manner, consume, or have in his possession any intoxicating liquor, provided that the foregoing shall not apply in the case of liquor given or permitted to be given to such persons under the age of twenty-one years, by his parents or guardian for beverage or medical purposes and which shall be consumed in the presence or premises of said parent or guardian, or administered to him by his physician or dentist for medicinal purposes. (KMC 11.44.070)

Intoxicating liquors and drugs prohibited. It is unlawful for any person to possess a container of any alcoholic beverage, whether opened or unopened, while in any city park. Any person having a container with one's immediate reach or control, (such as at a bench, picnic table, blanket, or motor vehicle where that person is sitting) within a city park, may be considered to be in possession of the container for the purposes of this section. (KMC 11.80.210)

Liquor in public. It is unlawful for any person to open a container or possess an opened container of intoxicating liquor or to consume intoxicating liquor in a way open to the public or a public place other than a public place specifically identified and posted as a place where intoxicating liquor may be consumed. (KMC 11.84A.050)

Intoxication. (a) It is unlawful for any person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic or habit forming drugs to operate or be in actual physical control of any vessel or watercraft. (b) It is unlawful for the owner of any vessel or watercraft or any person having such in charge or in control to authorize or knowingly permit the same to be operated by any person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor, narcotic or habit-forming drugs. (KMC 14.24.050)

Illicit drug offenses:

The following sections of RCW Chapter 69.50 relating to drugs and other controlled substances, defining crimes and prescribing penalties, are adopted by this reference:

KMC 11.77.010

RCW 69.50.101 RCW 69.50.212 RCW 69.50.403 RCW 69.50.102 RCW 69.50.302 RCW 69.50.404 RCW 69.50.201 RCW 69.50.306 RCW 69.50.405 RCW 69.50.202 RCW 69.50.307 RCW 69.50.407 RCW 69.50.204 RCW 69.50.308 RCW 69.50.412 RCW 69.50.206 RCW 69.50.309 RCW 69.50.505 RCW 69.50.208 RCW 69.50.401 RCW 69.50.506 RCW 69.50.210 RCW 69.50.402 RCW 69.50.509

Any person convicted under this chapter of violation of any of the provisions adopted in Section 11.77.010 is guilty of a serious crime as designated in Section 1.04.010. (KMC 11.77.020)

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Drugs and Alcohol

Health (and other) risks associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs include, but are not limited to: impaired academic or work performance; lost potential; absenteeism from class or work; financial problems; doing things one later regrets; conflicts with classmates, co-workers, families, friends and others; sexual assault, and other sexual violence; unwanted pregnancies; sexually-transmitted diseases; unusual or inappropriate risk-taking which may result in physical or emotional injury to oneself or others, or death; blackouts; hangovers; mood alterations and emotional instability; long-term health problems as described below; psychological or physical dependence as described below; and legal problems including imprisonment.

The use of any mood-altering substance, including alcohol, can lead to psychological dependence, which is defined as a need or craving for the substance and feelings of restlessness, tension or anxiety when the substance is not used. In addition, with many substances use can lead to physical tolerance, characterized by the need for increasing amounts of the substance to achieve the same effect, and/or symptoms when the substance is no longer being used. As tolerance and psychological or physical dependence develops, judgment becomes impaired and people often do not realize they are losing control over the use of the substance and that they need help.

Drugs such as cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, Ecstasy, and alcohol alter emotions, cognition, perception, physiology, and behavior in a variety of ways. Health risks include but are not limited to depression, apathy, hallucination, paranoia, and impaired judgment. All substances can have adverse effects on pregnancy. When two or more substances are combined, there is often an effect that is stronger than their additive sum.

It is impossible to accurately predict how an individual will react to a specific drug or alcohol because effects vary depending on the person, environmental variables, the dosage and potency of the substance, the method of taking the substance, the history of use, and whether the substance is taken in conjunction with other substances. Illegal drugs have particularly unpredictable effects due to variability in dosage and purity. Further, the overall potency of street drugs has increased dramatically making users increasingly susceptible to negative effects.

Alcohol acts as a depressant to the central nervous system and can cause serious short and long-term damage. Short-term effects include nausea, vomiting, and ulcers; more chronic abuse can lead to brain, liver, kidney and heart damage, and eventually death. Ingesting a large amount of alcohol at one time can lead to alcohol poisoning, coma and death. Even low doses of alcohol significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to safely drive a motor vehicle, increasing the likelihood the driver will cause an accident. Low to moderate use of alcohol increase one's risk towards involvement in a variety of violent acts, including rape and domestic violence. Moderate to high use of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information.

Women who drink alcohol while pregnant may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physiological, mental and emotional impairments. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than other youngsters of becoming alcoholics.