

**SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENT OF POLICY
DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1989
(Amended January, 1996)**

I. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Savannah State University prohibits the unlawful possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, and use of illicit drugs and alcohol on the institutional premises in accordance with the Drug Free Communities and Schools Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226).

As a term and condition for employment at Savannah State University as mandated by the Drug Free Communities and Schools Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226), employees of Savannah State University must:

- Abide by the terms and conditions of this policy statement.
- Notify the Office of Human Resources, Savannah State University, of any drug statute conviction for a violation occurring at Savannah State University no later than five calendar days after such conviction.

II. APPLICABLE LEGAL SANCTIONS FOR UNLAWFUL USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

State of Georgia Sanctions for Drug and Alcohol Offenders:

- The Georgia Penal Code defines "CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES" in Drug schedules I-V, Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.), sections 16-13-25 to 16-13-29, covering 14 pages of text, including a long list of chemical compounds, opiates, hallucinogens, derivatives, isomers, and other materials. The State Board of Pharmacy may add new material to the list as required.
- An even broader category of dangerous drugs is defined in O.C.G.A. Section 16-13-71, covering 41 pages of text describing hundreds of chemicals and other compounds. The Georgia General Assembly may add drugs to the list as required.

Criminal Punishment:

- "First Offender" - A person never before convicted of possession of a small amount of any controlled substance may at the discretion of the judge, be afforded the first offender treatment, resulting in no entry of a plea of guilty and no record of any conviction if the defendant successfully completes a court-monitored comprehensive rehabilitative program (O.C.G.A. 16-13-2(a)).
- Possession of one ounce or less of marijuana may result in imprisonment for 12 months and/or a fine not to exceed \$1000, or "public works" not to exceed 12 months (O.C.G.A. 16-13-2(b)).

**SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENT OF POLICY
DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1989
(Amended January, 1996)**

- Possession of more than one ounce of marijuana is a felony and is punishable by confinement of not less than one year nor more than 10 years (O.C.G.A. 16-13-30(j)(2)).
- Trafficking of cocaine, illegal drugs and/or marijuana is a felony. Depending on the amount, confinement ranges from 5 to 15 years with fines from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000.
- The penalties for violation of the "controlled substances" provision are numerous and vary depending on the drug schedule under which the substance is listed, whether the act charged includes trafficking, and how much of the substance is involved. Penalties range from 5 to 30 years and include life for a second conviction of transferring a narcotic (Schedule II).
- Possession of an alcoholic beverage by any person under age 21 may result in confinement, not to exceed 30 days, or a fine of not more than \$300, or both.
- The following property is subject to seizure by the state under public condemnation action, if such property was used in a criminal violation.
 1. All contraband drugs.
 2. All products used in drug manufacture and possession.
 3. Any property used as a container for drugs.
 4. Aircraft, vehicles, vessels, and other conveyances used or intended for use in the transportation or storage of illegal substances.
 5. Books, records, formulas, and other data.
 6. Cash, negotiable instruments, securities, or anything of value used in exchange for illegal purposes.

Federal Sanctions for Drug Offenders:

- Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841-858 describe the acts, criminal penalties, and civil and criminal forfeiture provisions established by Congress covering 28 pages of text.
- Title 21, U.S.C. Section 812, contains five schedules of "controlled substances". Schedule I describes certain opiates and other substances; Schedule II contains opium, cocaine, and other addictive substances; Schedule III lists amphetamine, phencyclidine (PCP) and other like matter; Schedule IV involves barbituates; Schedule V concerns codeine and atropine sulfate, among other preparations. The Attorney General of the United States is authorized to add items to the several schedules.

Criminal Punishment:

- The manufacture, or distribution of various controlled substances, depending upon their schedule sequence and the amount of substance

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENT OF POLICY
DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1989
(Amended January, 1996)

involved, is punishable by confinement ranging from not less than 5 nor more than 40 years and fines from \$200,000 to \$10,000,000.

- The penalties for "simple possession" of illegal drugs is from not more than 1 to 20 years, depending upon the substance schedule, amount possessed, and the number of convictions (Title 21 Section 844).
- The distribution, manufacture, or possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance is punishable by twice the sanction provided in Section 841 (b) (not less than 10 nor more than 80 years, depending upon the schedule and amount), where such offense was performed on or within one thousand feet of a college or university. Section A denies certain "federal benefits" to drug traffickers and possessors, such as federal grants, contracts, loans, and professional licenses.
- Section 853 provides for forfeiture of possession and title to the federal government of any property used in drug offenses, including realty (land growing crops and timber) and any tangible and intangible personality including, but not limited to, aircraft, vessels, vehicles, as well as rights, privileges, interests, claims, and securities.

III. HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- Drug and alcohol abuse result in significant health problems for those who use them. Drug and alcohol use in the workplace contributes not only to lost productivity, but also causes tremendous costs related to absenteeism, accidents, health care, loss of trained personnel, and employee treatment programs. Drug and alcohol abuse cause physical and emotional dependence where users may develop a craving for a particular substance. Thus, their bodies may respond to the presence of such substances in ways that lead to increased drug and alcohol use.
- Certain drugs, such as opiates, barbituates, alcohol and nicotine create physical dependence. With prolonged use, these drugs become part of the body chemistry. When a regular user stops taking the drug, the body experiences the physiological trauma known as withdrawal.
- Psychological dependence occurs when taking drugs becomes the center of the user's life. Drugs have an effect on the mind and body for weeks or even months after drug use has stopped. Drugs and alcohol can interfere with memory, sensation, and perception. They distort experiences and cause loss of self control that can lead users to harm others as well as themselves.
- Employees with substance abuse problems are encouraged to seek professional assistance within the parameters of the institutional personnel

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STATEMENT OF POLICY
DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1989
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policies and procedures. Below is a resource guide of local treatment and support centers.

Drug/Alcohol Treatment and Support Centers
Savannah Area

Name	Phone
Alcoholics Anonymous	354-0993
Clark Center	351-5600
Charter Hospital of Savannah	354-3911
Chatham Clinic for Addictions-Tidelands	651-2192
Coastal Guidance Clinic	355-0133
Georgia Regional Hospital	356-2011
Greenfield Center	354-1313
Narcotics Anonymous	233-4357
National Council on Alcoholism (NCA) (A referral service)	1-800-NCA-CALL
Oglethorpe Center	352-9024
Recovery Place of Savannah	355-1440
Willingway Outpatient	1-800-681-4004