

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson Annual Notice of Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Policy on a Drug-Free Campus

Any school that participates in the Federal Student Aid programs must provide a written notice to students and employees declaring it a drug-free campus. In accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-960) and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, TCAT Jackson prohibits the unlawful use, manufacture, possession, distribution, or dispensing of "controlled substances", as defined in the Controlled Substance Act, 21 U.S.C. 812, and alcohol on school property. All employees and students are subject to this Act. Any violation of this policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Drug and Alcohol Prevention Information

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program addresses three major concerns:

1. The maintenance of an environment in which students can learn and be safe,
2. Help for students whose development or performance is threatened by abuse of drugs or alcohol, and
3. The enforcement of policies and laws regarding possession or use of drugs or alcohol on campus.

In addition to any program-specific policy, in compliance with the requirements of the Drug-Free Campus & Workplace Act and to maintain a safe environment conducive to both work and learning, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology specifically prohibits the unlawful use, manufacture, possession, distribution or dispensing of alcohol or illegal drugs, the misuse of legally prescribed or "over the counter" drugs or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs in its facilities and programs. Pursuant to this policy, and where "reasonable suspicion" exists that a student or employee is "under the influence" of alcohol or a controlled substance while on campus or engaged in any Tennessee College of Applied Technology related activity, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology may require that individual to submit to a test to determine the presence of alcohol or controlled substances.

For the purposes of this policy, "reasonable suspicion" means suspicion based on specific and articulable facts, taken together with rational inferences from those facts that give rise to the conclusion that an individual is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance(s). "Under the influence" means that an individual's judgment or motor coordination is impaired due to the presence or use of alcohol or a controlled substance(s), including prescription medication(s).

When it has been determined that a reasonable suspicion exists that an individual is under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance, he/she may be required to submit to a test to determine whether the individual is actually under the influence. An individual who refuses to undergo testing when reasonable suspicion has been determined to exist, will be found to have violated this policy and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Additionally, any person who tests positive for being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance(s) in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. The cost of reasonable suspicion drug testing is the responsibility of the individual being tested.

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson Sanctions

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology and all Tennessee Board of Regents institutions have prohibitions against the possession and/or use of drugs and alcohol on property controlled by the Tennessee College of Applied Technology or while participating in a Tennessee College of Applied Technology sponsored program. TCAT Jackson will impose the appropriate sanctions, up to and including expulsion, termination, and referral for prosecution, on any employee or student who fails to comply with the terms of this policy. TCAT Jackson is also required to notify the Department of Education when it learns of an employee or student's conviction under any criminal drug statute. Employees may also be required to successfully complete an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program.

For students, other possible sanctions for failure to comply with the terms of this policy may include suspension, probation, warning, reprimand, and mandatory successful completion of an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program.

Local, State, and Federal Sanctions

Various federal, state, and local statutes make it unlawful to manufacture, distribute, solicit, dispense, deliver, sell, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, solicit, dispense, deliver, or sell controlled substances. The penalty imposed depends upon many factors, which include the type and amount of controlled substance involved, the number of prior offenses, if any, whether death or serious bodily injury results from the use of such substance, and whether any other crimes were committed in connection with the use of such substance. Possible maximum penalties for a violation of federal/state laws prohibiting the use/distribution of drugs/alcohol include imprisonment, up to a term of life imprisonment, and fines in excess of \$1 million. In addition, employees/students found to be in violations of federal or state laws regarding the use/distribution of drugs/alcohol may be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, termination of employment or enrollment at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology.

Statement of Health Risks

Abusing drugs or alcohol interferes with the body's normal functioning. Because drugs directly affect many parts of the brain, abuse can lead to problems with learning, sleeping and emotional health. Abuse can also lead to permanent damage of vital organs such as the brain, heart and liver and be manifested by heart attack, stroke, blood clots, lung damage, liver damage, cancer, and sudden death.

Individuals who suffer from addiction often have one or more accompanying medical issues, including lung and cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, and mental disorders. Imaging scans, chest X-rays, and blood tests show the damaging effects of substance abuse throughout the body. For example, tests show that tobacco smoke causes cancer of the mouth, throat, larynx, blood, lungs, stomach, pancreas, kidney, bladder, and cervix. In addition, some drugs of abuse, such as inhalants, are toxic to nerve cells and may damage or destroy them either in the brain or the peripheral nervous system.

Even small doses of drugs and alcohol can significantly impair judgment and coordination. This is especially true in a person's ability to safely drive a vehicle or operate other machinery. Moderate doses may increase incidents of aggressive acts like spouse or child abuse. High doses can cause respiratory depression and death.

Fetal alcohol syndrome is a common problem of babies and infants born to mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy. These infants can have mental retardation and irreversible physical abnormalities. Children born to alcoholic parents are at a greater risk of becoming alcoholics.

(Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Drug Abuse; Tennessee Code Annotated.)

Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Assistance

Drug and alcohol addiction are preventable diseases. Effective education and outreach programs can lead to reduced instances of abuse. Abuse can be prevented if one never uses drugs.

College personnel will seek to identify abuse problems and provide immediate intervention and assistance. The College will assist any individual whose mental or physical health is threatened by the use or abuse of alcohol or drugs. The College counselor can refer individuals to community resource centers for abuse counseling and rehabilitation.

Some additional counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation centers and hotlines are listed below. Please contact Student Services for a more extensive list of Drug and Alcohol Counseling and Treatment Centers in our area. You can also search for a local treatment center at <http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help>.

Jackson Area Council on Alcoholism
and Drug Dependency (JACO)
900 E. Chester St.
Jackson, TN 38301
731-423-3653

Quinco Community Mental Health Center
10710 Old Hwy 64
Bolivar, TN 38008
731-658-6113

Pathways of TN Inc.
238 Summar Dr.
Jackson, TN 38301
731-541-8200

Quinco Mental Health Center
(Henderson County)
844 Natchez Trace Dr.
Lexington, TN 38351
731-967-8803

Quinco Mental Health Center
(Chester County)
925 E. Main St.
Henderson, TN 38340
731-989-3401

Pathways of TN, Inc.
1120 Tammell St.
Brownsville, TN 38012
1-731-772-4685

Employee Assistance Program
1-855-437-3486
(for TN State Employees only)

Pathways (Henderson County)
759 W. Church St.
Lexington, TN 38351
731-968-8197

This document is presented as an educational and informational resource. It is not designed to provide services for persons in crisis or in need of mental health services. Persons in crisis should call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Veterans can call the Lifeline number and press "1" to be routed to the Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline. If the crisis is life threatening, dial 911.