

## **Baptist Health College Little Rock Policy**

Baptist Health College Little Rock (BHCLR) is designated as “Drug Free”. It is the policy of BHCLR to promote a safe, healthy and productive environment free from the influences of drugs and alcohol. BHCLR students have the right to be educated in an environment that is free of drugs and alcohol, and to rely on the fact that other students are not impaired by substance abuse.

BHCLR is committed to strictly enforce its drug and alcohol policy and to comply with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. It is the expectation of BHCLR that all students obey applicable local, state and federal laws and to adhere to the behavioral standards regarding the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs on Baptist Health or BHCLR premises.

It is imperative that a student be law abiding, alert and in full possession of reasoning capabilities. Consuming, being under the influence, selling or possessing alcohol or other reasoning and cognitive alteration substances at any school function, during a learning activity or while on school campus is absolutely forbidden, and is cause for immediate Administrative action, up to and including dismissal.

All students currently enrolled in a BHCLR program participate in a random drug screen program. Faculty or administration takes action to protect the public when student behaviors are reported or observed indicating Probable Cause of involvement with chemical substance use or abuse and may request students submit to a For Cause drug screen.

Students who are taking a current medically prescribed drug that can alter behavior, physical ability or mental function in such a way that their ability to safely perform his or her assigned tasks, must report the use of this drug to their Coordinator/Program Director who will determine whether any action should be taken.

Students must keep all prescribed medication in the original container, which identifies the drug, dosage, date of prescription and prescribing physician.

Students must notify their Coordinator/Program Director in writing within five days of any conviction of a criminal drug status. This requirement is set forth to comply with the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

Chemical Substance Abuse policies provide direction for school action when a student is suspected of being involved with chemical substance use or abuse such as alcohol, misuse of legal drugs, use of illegal drugs, selling, distributing and/or manufacturing illegal drugs and selling of prescription drugs or manufacture for personal use or sale of illegal substances. For more information on the Chemical Substance Abuse policy, please refer to the Student Handbook or Catalog.

Students found in violation of the Chemical Substance Abuse policy at BHCLR may be subject to local, state or federal laws and may face criminal charges punishable by fines and /or imprisonment.

### **Applicable Arkansas Laws**

1. No person under the age of 21 may legally consume or possess alcohol in Arkansas.
2. It is illegal to be so intoxicated in a public place that you are likely to endanger yourself or others or be unreasonably annoying to others. This is a class C misdemeanor, (with a class A as the most serious), and may result in fines and incarceration.
3. Driving a motor vehicle with .08% or more blood alcohol content is a class A misdemeanor that, in addition to incarceration and heavy fines, will result in a suspension of driving privileges from 120-180 days for the first offense. Driving with a license suspended for DWI may result in incarceration for ten days and a \$1,000 fine. Refusing the chemical test for blood alcohol content may result in a 180-day

suspension of driving privileges for the first offense. In the event of an accident involving a fatality, a blood alcohol content of .08% or higher may result in a charge of manslaughter, even though the driver did not set out to intentionally harm anyone.

4. A person under the age of 21 operating a motor vehicle with .02% but less than .08% blood alcohol content commits the offense of Underage Driving Under the Influence. The penalties include suspension of driving privileges for up to 120 days for the first offense, fines up to \$500, public service work at the discretion of the court, and mandatory attendance at an alcohol and driving education program.

5. Arkansas statutes 5-27-501 through 503 are aimed at preventing persons under 21 from using altered identification to purchase alcohol. Manufacturing, altering, or distributing altered personal identification for this purpose is a Class C Felony punishable by up to ten years in prison. Possessing altered identification is a class B misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and revocation of driving privileges for up to 12 months or age 18, whichever is shortest.

6. Possession of more than one ounce of marijuana or possessing it in a form to facilitate distribution is a felony offense. Possession of any usable amount of any other illegal narcotic is a felony. The penalties range from probation to life in prison.

### **Health Risks of Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

Many Americans abuse alcohol and illegal drugs without thinking about the possible risk to their health and well-being.

#### Alcohol

Even small amounts of alcohol can affect your judgment and coordination. Moderate amounts also affect your ability to learn and remember information. High amounts can cause alcohol poisoning, resulting in death.

Women who drink alcohol while pregnant may give birth to infants with birth defects and mental retardation.

#### Illegal drugs

Drugs change your perception. They affect how your brain works, including your memory. They cause a variety of potentially serious or fatal physical conditions, the NIDA says.

These drugs have specific health risks:

- Cocaine- Cocaine in any form can cause sudden death from cardiac arrest. Cocaine stimulates the central nervous system. That raises blood pressure, heart rate, breathing rate, and body temperature. Injecting cocaine with shared needles can lead to HIV infection and hepatitis.
- Marijuana- Marijuana increases heart rate, affects memory and comprehension, and makes it more difficult to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination, such as driving a car. The drug also affects motivation, which has an impact on school and work.
- Prescription drug abuse- About 9 million Americans use prescription drugs for nonmedical purposes. Commonly abused medications include OxyContin, Ritalin, Adderal, Vicodin, and Percocet. These drugs can cause very high blood pressure, irregular heart rate, and high body temperature.
- Methamphetamine- This drug can increase heart rate, raise blood pressure, and decrease appetite. This can lead to severe weight loss. High doses can cause tremors, delusions, paranoia, and death.
- Anabolic steroids- Steroid users can suffer side effects ranging from acne to liver cancer. In males, use can cause withered testicles, sterility, and impotence. In females, irreversible masculine traits can develop. Psychological effects in both sexes include

aggressive behavior and depression. Some side effects, such as heart attack and stroke, may occur years after use.

### **Counseling, Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs**

The Academic and Spiritual Counselor provides free literature, handouts and referrals. In addition, the following support groups are available:

Baptist Health Recovery Adult Alcohol & Drug Treatment Program	501-202-4636
Narcotics Anonymous <a href="http://www.caasc.org">www.caasc.org</a>	866-845-2579
Alcoholics Anonymous <a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a>	501-664-7303
Celebrate Recovery	501-224-7171