

# Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Information

In accordance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Grace School of Theology provides the following information to provide a campus environment free of illicit drug use and alcohol abuse and to prevent the abuse of alcohol and drugs by students, faculty, and employees.

Grace School of Theology believes that illegal drugs and abuse of alcohol have no place in the college environment. The unauthorized manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance or alcohol is strictly prohibited in all facilities of the college, in all places where employees/students work/attend, including all state-owned vehicles, and as any part of the college's activities. As a condition of employment/enrollment, all employees/students shall abide by this prohibition and notify the college of any criminal drug or alcohol use. Violation of such prohibition shall result in action against the employee/student, which shall include action up to and including termination/expulsion, and/or satisfactory participation in an approved drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program. Participation in such a program shall not be paid for by the college, but may be covered by an employee's/student's health insurance policy.

No student may engage in the unlawful manufacture, possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on the Grace School of Theology's property or as part of any of its sponsored activities.

Such unlawful activity may be considered sufficient grounds for serious punitive action, including expulsion. Disciplinary sanctions for students convicted of a felony offense involving alcohol or the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession or use of marijuana, controlled substances or other illegal or dangerous drugs shall be immediate suspension and denial of further state and/or federal funds from the date of conviction. Specifically in the case of a drug related offense, the student shall minimally be suspended for the remainder of the term and forfeit all academic credit for that period.

GSOT shall notify the appropriate state/federal funding agency within 10 days after receiving notice of the conviction from the student or otherwise after receiving the actual notice of conviction.

Within 30 days of notification of conviction, Grace School of Theology shall with respect to any student so convicted:

1. Take additional appropriate action against such student up to and including expulsion as it deems necessary.
2. Provide such student with a description of any drug or alcohol counseling treatment, or rehabilitation or re-entry programs that are available for such purposes by a federal, state or local health, law enforcement or other appropriate agency.

## Health Risks Associated with the Use of Illicit Drugs and the Abuse of Alcohol

The use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol can, and in many instances, very probably will, lead to serious health problems, chemical dependency, deterioration of the quality of life, and, if untreated, early death.

- **Cocaine** provides a short-lived "high" followed by depression, paranoia, anxiety, guilt, anger and fear. It can cause rapid physical and psychological addiction. In some instances, cocaine may cause a heart attack or sudden death, even on the first use. The dangers of this highly addictive drug and its close derivative, "crack", are evidenced daily through the news media. Overdose of cocaine (or other stimulants) can cause agitation, increase in body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions and possible death.
- **Marijuana**, like cocaine, provides a short-term high, and like cocaine, is addictive. While the "high" may last only a short time, traces remain in the body for a month or more, inhibiting short-term memory, reducing reaction time and impairing visual tracking. It may also cause an inability to abstract and understand concepts. In some instances it can depress the immune system, increase the risk of heart attack, contribute to lung diseases, and infertility. Marijuana and other cannabis can cause euphoria, relaxed inhibitions, increased appetite and disoriented behavior. Overdose can cause fatigue, paranoia and possible death.
- **Depressants** such as barbiturates, chloral hydrate, benzodiazepines, etc., can cause slurred speech, disorientation and drunken behavior without the odor of alcohol. Overdose can cause shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma, and possible death.
- **Hallucinogens** such as LSD, Mescaline and Peyote, amphetamine variants, etc., can cause illusions and hallucinations, and poor perception of time and distance. Overdose can cause longer, more intense illusionary hallucinatory episodes, psychosis and possible death.
- **Narcotics** such as opium, heroin, morphine, and codeine can cause euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils and nausea. Overdose of narcotics can cause slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma and possible death.
- **Prescription** drugs, used improperly, can cause tiredness, or hyperactivity, impaired reflexes, brain damage, and, in some instances, addiction or death.
- **Alcohol**, used abusively, will impair judgment, result in anxiety, feelings of guilt, depression and isolation. Prolonged use may cause liver and heart disease, cancer, and psychological problems and dependency in the form of alcoholism. Alcohol used by pregnant women is the leading preventable cause of mental retardation in children.

## Criminal Sanctions

### Simple Drug Possession in Texas

Texas state law imposes penalties that range from a relatively minor misdemeanor to severe felony charges. Depending on certain factors or circumstances charges could be drug possession or drug possession with intent to distribute.

Determining factors are:

- quantity
- how the drug was concealed or stored

- possession of drug with paraphernalia (scale)
- drugs found with large amount of money
- past convictions

As you can tell from the specific statutes below, the penalties can be serious. If you find yourself facing drug possession charges in Texas, it is in your best interests to get advice from a lawyer as soon as possible.

### **Marijuana Possession Penalties**

Considered as a class on it's own, possession of Marijuana has it's own penalties that are not the same as other drugs or substances.

The most common marijuana possession offense of under 2oz have a maximum penalty of 180 days in jail. However, in most situations, you can negotiate a deal for probation in exchange for a drug treatment program, and successful completion of such a program can result in the charges being dropped.

If you are accused of being in possession of more than 2oz, Texas marijuana penalties range from 180 days in jail up to 20 years in prison with fines of up to \$10,000.00. However, the illegal possession of more than 2,000 pounds of Marijuana may result in a life sentence.

### **Possession of Cocaine, Heroin, Methamphetamine**

Known in Texas under "Penalty Group 1", minimum penalties could be two years in jail and \$10,000.00 fine but it may run up to a maximum of life imprisonment for possession of 400 grams or more.

### **Possession of LSD**

Held under Penalty Group 1A, hallucinogens like LSD could result a penalty of two years to life imprisonment with fines imposed of up to \$250,000.00.

### **Possession of Ecstasy, PCP, Mescaline (Group 2)**

Penalty Group 2 under Texas drug laws includes ecstasy, mescaline, and PCP. Ecstasy or MDMA (also called "Molly") in particular is a common club drug and is regularly charged in Texas courts.

Hashish and forms of cannabis with resinous or extracted THC are also in this felony category.

These drugs carry two-year jail sentences for less than one gram, and maximum sentences of life imprisonment and fines up to \$50,000 for 400 grams or more.

### **Possession of Valium, Ritalin, various chemical compounds**

The final category (Penalty Groups 3 and 4) includes common prescription drugs, and could result in minimums of one year in jail and fines of about \$4000; maximum sentences are given for amounts over 200 grams and are in the area of 20 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.

### **Controlled Substances Delivery & Manufacture (Drug) Laws in Texas**

The punishment for manufacture and delivery of controlled substances vary depending on the type of drug and the quantity involved in the offense.

Texas drug laws (The Texas Penal Code and Texas health and safety code) divides the offenses and punishment in four penalty groups, by drug classification.

Penalties for felony drug offenses include imprisonment of up to ninety-nine years in jail and fines of up to \$250,000.00.

### **Narcotics**

Narcotics are made or derived synthetically from opium. Examples include opium, morphine, codeine, hydrocodone, fentanyl, and many others.

### **Depressants**

Depressant are drugs that slows the functions of the body. Medically taken to calm people down or help a person to sleep.

Examples are barbiturates, inhalants and Chloral Hydrate

### **Stimulants**

Tend to increase alertness and physical activity. Amphetamines are the most common of these “uppers” and cocaine.

### **Hallucinogens**

These drugs alter perception (visual), mood and thought. Examples are LSD, PCP and Marijuana. (See our [Texas Marijuana Laws](#) page.)

### **Public Intoxication and Driving While Intoxicated in Texas**

Under Texas law, you can be charged with public “drunkenness” (intoxication) for being “high” in public.

Under the Texas Penal Code the term **intoxication** is deemed not only to have its general meaning of intoxication by alcohol. It also means *“not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties by reason of introduction of alcohol, a controlled substance or drug”*.

Under the Texas Penal Code, It is an offense for a person to appear in a public place while intoxicated to the degree that such appearance may cause danger to him or to another unless such intoxication may be explained to have been administered for therapeutic treatment and such other medical reasons.

Appearing in public while intoxicated is a **Class C misdemeanor**.

### **Federal Law**

The use, possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensing, and trafficking of illegal drugs is prohibited by federal law. Strict penalties are provided for drug convictions, including mandatory prison terms for many offenses. The following information, although not complete, is an overview of potential federal statutory maximum penalties.

However, precise federal sentencing is governed by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Please note

that sentencing under these guidelines can result in penalties that are more severe than the federal statutory maximums and which are more severe than the penalties imposed under state law under certain circumstances.

A federal drug conviction may result in the denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses, up to one year for first offense, up to five years for second and subsequent offenses [21 U.S.C. sec. 853]. Moreover, any person convicted of a federal drug offense punishable by more than one year in prison will forfeit personal and real property related to the violation, including homes, vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other personal belongings [21 U.S.C. sec. 853(a)(2), 881(a)(7) and 881(a)(4)].

Further, persons convicted on federal drug trafficking within 1,000 feet of Grace School of Theology may face penalties of prison terms and fines that are twice as high as regular penalties for the offense, with a mandatory prison sentence of at least one year {921 U.S.C. sec. 845(a)}.

**Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education Programs**

A variety of counseling services and treatment centers are available throughout the state for anyone experiencing problems related to substance abuse. Although most counseling and treatment centers charge for their services, some programs are free of charge. Faculty, staff, and students should avail themselves of sources to identify the services or programs which most closely meet their specific needs.

**The following agencies can be contacted for assistance with drug/alcohol abuse related issues:**

<b>Organizations:</b>	<b>Website:</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>
Alcoholics Anonymous	www.aa.org	
Narcotics Anonymous	www.na.org	
Al-Anon for Families of Alcoholics	www.al-anon.alateen.org	1-800-356-9996
National Directory of Hotlines & Crisis Intervention Centers		1-800-999-9999
Drug & Alcohol Rehab/Treatment Referral Service		1800-662-HELP
National Cocaine Hotline		1-800-COCAINE
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline		1-800-9-HEROIN
Drug-Free Workplace Help		1-800-WORKPLACE

**Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator**

Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov](http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov) or 1-800-662-HELP.

## **GSOT is a Tobacco Free Campus**

Grace School of Theology is a tobacco free campus. Smoking and the use of other tobacco products will not be permitted on any college campus to include but not limited to, campus buildings, sidewalks, parking lots, building entrances, common areas, and college-owned vehicles.

### **Want to Quit?**

Contact the American Cancer Society Quit-line for free and confidential counseling services, support and information:

**1-877-937-7848**

**TTY: 1-866-228-4327**

You can also visit [www.yesquit.com](http://www.yesquit.com)

### **Resources**

- [Texas Department of State Health Services](#)
- [SmokeFree.gov](http://SmokeFree.gov)
- [American Lung Association](#)