



**NORTHERN
PENNSYLVANIA
REGIONAL COLLEGE**

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

The Northern Pennsylvania Regional College has established a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program in compliance with federal requirements and regulations related to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. The primary focus of the Program is as follows:

The College prohibits the manufacture, use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs, controlled substances and/or alcoholic beverages except as expressly permitted by law. Any student who violates the regulation will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in NPRC-3235: Behavioral Code of Conduct for Students and PROC-3235: Behavioral Code of Conduct for Students. Based on the offense, sanctions may lead up to and include expulsion from one's status as a student at NPRC.

Students must also comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government regarding the possession and consumption of controlled substances. Any violation of these laws or regulations, on or off College facilities, will be grounds for College disciplinary sanctions. A student convicted of a drug-related offense must notify the College within five (5) days of conviction. Students will report a conviction to the Director of Student Services or Director of Workforce Development, as applicable based upon whether the student(s) involved are academic or workforce development students.

Information Distribution

Twice a year, the Registrar's Office will notify all academic students of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program in writing via email. A website link will be continually available with drug and alcohol information, resources, and applicable student policies.

On an ongoing basis, Workforce Development personnel will send a "welcome" email to each newly enrolled workforce development student. A link to the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program information will be included along with other pertinent College information.

Information in the notifications, as specified by H.R.3614 (The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989), will include the following:

- Standards of conduct that clearly prohibit the unlawful use of illicit drugs and alcohol by students on NPRC property, partner property, or at any College activity;
- A description of applicable legal sanctions under law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol;

- A description of health risks associated with the use and/or abuse of illicit drugs or the abuse of alcohol;
- A description of drug/alcohol counseling and resources available to students; and
- A clear statement that NPRC will impose disciplinary sanctions on students for violation of the Drug and Alcohol Policy (NPRC-1040)

Legal Sanctions

Federal Trafficking Penalties for Schedules I, II, III, IV, and V (Except Marijuana)				
Schedule	Substance/Quantity	Penalty	Substance/Quantity	Penalty
II	Cocaine 500-4999 grams mixture	First Offense: Not less than 5 yrs. And not more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. Or more than life. Fine of not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. and not more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual	Cocaine 5 kilograms or more mixture	First Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. and not more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine of not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not less than 20 yrs., and not more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual. 2 or More Prior Offenses: Life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.
II	Cocaine Base 28-279 grams mixture		Cocaine Base 280 grams or more mixture	
IV	Fentanyl 40-399 grams mixture		Fentanyl 400 grams or more mixture	
I	Fentanyl Analogue 10-99 grams mixture		Fentanyl Analogue 100 grams or more mixture	
I	Heroin 100-999 grams mixture		Heroin 1 kilogram or more mixture	
I	LSD 1-9 grams mixture		LSD 10 grams or more mixture	
II	Methamphetamine 5-49 grams pure or 50-499 grams mixture		Methamphetamine 50 grams or more mixture	
II	PCP 10-99 grams pure or 100-999 grams mixture		PCP 100 grams or more pure or 1 kilogram or more mixture	

Substance/Quantity	Penalty
Any Amount of Other Schedule I & II Substances	First Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than Life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if not an individual.
Any Drug Product Containing Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid	
Flunitrazapan (Schedule IV) 1 Gram	
Any Amount of Other Schedule III Drugs	First Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not more than 15 yrs. or more than Life. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2.5 million if not an individual.

	Second Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not more than 30 yrs. Fine not more than \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.
Any Amount of All Other Schedule IV Drugs (other than one gram or more of Flunitrazepam)	First Offense: Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000 if an individual, \$1 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than an individual.
Any Amount of All Schedule V Drugs	First Offense: Not more than 1 yr. Fine not more than \$100,000 if an individual, \$250,000 if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 4 yrs. Fine not more than \$200,000 if an individual, \$500,000 if not an individual.

Taken from the Department of Drug Enforcement Agency, "[Federal Trafficking Guidelines](#)".

NPRC Disciplinary Processes

Once a report of an alleged violation is received, the Director of Student Services is responsible for investigating and adjudicating alleged violations related to academic students. The Director of Workforce Development is responsible for investigating and adjudicating alleged violations related to workforce development students.

If a student is found to be in violation of NPRC-1040: Drug and Alcohol, student disciplinary action will follow PROC-3235: Behavioral Code of Conduct for Students. Disciplinary action may include recommendation for expulsion from the College as detailed in NPRC-3237: Suspension and Expulsion.

Report a Complaint

Instructors, employees, and students are responsible for reporting conduct that is believed to be in violation of NPRC-1040: Drug and Alcohol. To report an alleged violation for students, within five (5) business days of an allegation or observation of an alleged violation, a reporter shall complete the [online report form](#) for a Behavioral Code of Conduct Complaint providing written documentation of the incident and copies of any relevant documents, recording, or other records related to the allegation.

Drug and Alcohol Health Risks

Health Consequences of Drug Abuse

There are numerous [harmful consequences of illicit drug](#) use that amplify over time. Alcohol and drug addiction can cause infectious diseases, some of them chronic and lethal, such as:

- Liver disease – The liver is an integral part of the body's immune system. It removes toxins from things that go into the body, including alcohol and ingested drugs. Liver

damage occurs when it gets overwhelmed by too many harmful substances. The problem is even worse when the liver has a viral infection like hepatitis C.

- Lung damage – Depressant drugs slow the respiratory system. Tobacco, a legal yet harmful drug, causes lung cancer. Smoking marijuana can cause chronic bronchitis.
- Heart attack – Depressant drugs also slow the heart. When people take two or more depressants in combination with alcohol, it can slow the heart to a stop. Prolonged substance abuse can cause heart disease. The conflicting effects of cocaine and heroin combinations (speedballs) can cause heart attacks.
- Brain damage – Addictive drugs cause dopamine release and trigger the brain's reward centers. Too much of this activity can cause cellular damage and inflammation in the central nervous system. When depressants slow breathing, it deprives the brain of oxygen.
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) – Pregnant women who use drugs are liable to pass the addiction onto their children. NAS occurs when a newborn goes into withdrawal after birth. Symptoms may include tremors and seizures.
- Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders – This accounts for the long-lasting effects of prenatal drug exposure in children as they age. Symptoms may include impaired brain function, heart problems and physical deformities.

In many cases, substance use stems from a mental health disorder. Oftentimes, drugs provoke mental illness.

Alcohol

Drinking too much, on a single occasion or over time, can take a serious toll on your health. Here's [how alcohol can affect your body](#):

- Brain – Alcohol interferes with the brain's communication pathways and can affect the way the brain looks and works. These disruptions can change mood and behavior and make it harder to think clearly and move with coordination.
- Heart – Drinking a lot over a long time or too much on a single occasion can damage the heart, causing problems including cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, stroke, and high blood pressure.
- Liver – Heavy drinking takes a toll on the liver and can lead to a variety of problems and liver inflammations including steatosis, alcoholic hepatitis, fibrosis, and cirrhosis.
- Pancreas – Alcohol causes the pancreas to produce toxic substances that can eventually lead to pancreatitis, a dangerous inflammation and swelling of the blood vessels in the pancreas that prevents proper digestion.
- Cancer – According to the National Cancer Institute: "There is a strong scientific consensus that alcohol drinking can cause several types of cancer. In its Report on Carcinogens, the National Toxicology Program of the US Department of Health and Human Services lists consumption of alcoholic beverages as a known human carcinogen.
- Immune System – Drinking too much can weaken your immune system, making your body a much easier target for disease. Chronic drinkers are more liable to contract diseases like pneumonia and tuberculosis than people who do not drink too much.

Drinking a lot on a single occasion slows your body's ability to ward off infections – even up to 24 hours after getting drunk.

Resources

[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) – Resource includes a Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator, a confidential and anonymous source of information for persons seeking treatment facilities for substance use/addiction and/or mental health problems. The national helpline below is available 24/7 and can assist you with treatment referrals and information.

1-800-662-HELP (4357)

The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline – 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – as of July 16, 2022. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved one.

988

[Alcoholics Anonymous](#) – Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who come together to solve their drinking problem. There is no cost, age, or education requirement to participate. The link below will help you to identify an A.A. meeting near you.

Higher Ed EAP (HED-EAP) Benefits – NPRC partners with ESI-EAP to provide students with the best possible solutions for issues you or one of your family members may face. Among the free resources available to students are counseling benefits, coaching, online training, self-help resources, wellness benefits, and lifestyle benefits. Access HED-EAP information through the D2L Portal under the heading of “Life Stuff.”