



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Drug Policy

Policy Number [X-XX]

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania

Approved by University Senate, [Date of Approval]

Revised Fall 2025

Responsible Office:

- For students: Student Conduct Office
- For employees: Human Resources
- For guests and all others: University Police

Previous Policy: PRP 4805

1. Purpose

It is a violation of Local, State, and Federal law for any individual to illegally possess, use, sell, manufacture, or transfer controlled substances or similar drugs or to illegally dispense or transfer prescribed medications, drugs, or drug paraphernalia. Exceptions may be made when used for research or for specific educational purposes as permitted by Local, State, and Federal law.

2. Scope

All members of the Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania community, including students, faculty, staff, officials, volunteers, visitors, and contractors.

3. Definitions, Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1.1. **Controlled substances:** defined by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency at <https://www.dea.gov/drug-information/csa>
- 3.1.2. **Paraphernalia:** defined in United States Code, Title 21, and section 863

3.2. Roles and Responsibilities



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- 3.2.1. For students, the Student Conduct Office is responsible.
- 3.2.2. For employees, the Human Resources Office is responsible.
- 3.2.3. For guests and others, University Police are responsible.

4. Policy

It shall be the responsibility of Commonwealth University faculty, staff, students, guests, and others to make themselves aware of Commonwealth University's drug policy and Local, State and Federal laws regarding controlled substances.

In accordance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and other Federal mandates, the University will communicate its position on, and the legal ramifications of, drug use and abuse to all students and employees.

Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions in the Student Code of Conduct and independent of any external legal action. Sanctions may include suspension or expulsion from the University. Additionally, students who possess or provide controlled substances/drugs are subject to due process in accordance with the provisions in the Student Code of Conduct.

University employees who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary proceedings as defined by the appropriate collective bargaining agreement or by the appropriate supervisor.

Individuals who are not members of the campus community who violate the University's drug policy and whose actions are not in compliance with the orderly operation of the University will be prosecuted in accordance with Local, State, and Federal law and will be required to leave campus upon request of a University official.

When the University, Student Conduct Office, Human Resources, or University Police are notified of drug related misconduct by a student, employee, or other person at Commonwealth University, the individual(s) may be subject to Commonwealth University's disciplinary proceedings.

Pennsylvania has a medical marijuana law that permits medical use and possession of marijuana under certain circumstances. However, permitting employees or students to use or possess marijuana for medical purposes on campus or other University property would violate the federal Drug-Free Schools Act and the Drug-Free Workplace Act.



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Consequently, medical use and any possession of marijuana on campus by students, employees, or others, is prohibited. Employees and students who use, possess, or are under the influence of medical marijuana are not exempt from normal conduct and job performance standards. Students in possession of a “Medical Marijuana Card” cannot possess or use medical marijuana on campus.

5 Compliance and Enforcement

- 5.1 Every University policy will undergo a regular review on a five-year cycle, with approximately 20% of the total policies inventory being reviewed each year.
- 5.2 All policy reviews will be conducted by the responsible Senate Committee to assure that the policy remains relevant and aligns with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, PASSHE Board of Governors policies, and other University policies, procedures, standards, or guidelines.

6 Additional Information

6.1 Supporting Documents

- 6.1.1 Student Code of Conduct
- 6.1.2 Drug Free Schools & Communities Act
- 6.1.3 Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988
- 6.1.4 Federal Controlled Substances Act
- 6.1.5 PA Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act
- 6.1.6 Relevant local ordinances

6.2 History

- 6.2.1 Reviewed Student Life Standing Committee (SLSC) fall 2004; Reviewed and updated by SLSC 2/09/05, Reviewed by Secretariat 1/24/05; Updated by SLSC 2/10/05 and 3/15/05; Reviewed by Secretariat 3/21/05; Approved by Forum 4/23/05; Reviewed by the Student Affairs Committee Fall 2025
- 6.2.2 Effective Date – [Date Approved by the University Senate or Issued by the Office of the President as an Interim Policy]
- 6.2.3 Revised – Spring 2026
- 6.2.4 Next Review Date – Spring 2031

6.3 Related Policies - Student Code of Conduct; Alcoholic Beverages Policy; Drug Free Workplace Policy



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6.4 Contacts for Additional Information and Reporting

- For students: Student Conduct Office, Commonwealth University, Attn: Jennifer Raup, jraup@commonwealthu.edu 570.389.4808
- For employees: Human Resources, Commonwealth University, askcuhr@commonwealthu.edu 717.720.4040
- For guests and all others: University Police
 - At Bloomsburg campus: police@bloomu.edu 570.389.2211
 - At Lock Haven campus: police@lockhaven.edu 570.484.2278
 - At Mansfield campus: police@mansfield.edu 570.662.4900