

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations  
Annual Notification 2024 – 2025 Academic Year**



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## **Standards of Conduct**

The Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights & Responsibilities sets forth the Student Bill of Rights along with national, state and city laws, and Rensselaer policies that guide Institute and judicial actions in support of Rensselaer student success. Rensselaer's Dean of Students Office is responsible for developing and disseminating the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights & Responsibilities. The intent of the Judicial Affairs program is to uphold student rights and develop students' ability to make responsible decisions to maintain mutual respect, integrity, and an environment where all students can effectively pursue their educational goals.

For alcohol and drug-related policies, students or student organizations alleged to have violated the Institute's Grounds for Disciplinary Action are invited to participate in the judicial process. The judicial process begins with a judicial inquiry. If a student or organization is found responsible at the conclusion of the inquiry, the student or organization may appeal the decision. Appeals for violations of the Rensselaer Handbook for Student Rights and Responsibilities go to the Student Judicial Board. When there is a violation of the Institute's Regulations on Other Drugs, the appeal is referred to the Institute's Prohibited Substances Hearing Board, comprised of three Institute hearing officers. Decisions made by the Judicial Board and the Prohibited Substances Review Board may be appealed to the Review Board, which is comprised of two Institute staff, two faculty, and two students. The final level of appeal is reviewed by Rensselaer's President.

Sanctions given to those found responsible range from education and intervention up to separation from the institution. All sanctions are developed with the premise to be restorative. "The overall philosophy of the Institute is that individuals and organizations in the Rensselaer community are responsible for their own actions. When making decisions to consume an alcoholic beverage or to provide alcoholic beverages to others, individuals and organizations must be mindful of the inherent consequences and risks involved. In addition, they are responsible for understanding and complying with applicable laws. The Institute will not shield individuals or organizations from the legal consequences of their actions should they choose to violate these laws" (Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights & Responsibilities, pg. 20).

The Institute's Human Resources Policy Guidelines establishes the standards of conduct for all employees. Any employee, including faculty, staff, and members of the President's Cabinet, who engage in conduct prohibited by the Institute's Drug and Alcohol Policies or are convicted under a criminal statute will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination, and/or may be required to satisfactorily participate in Rensselaer's Employee Assistance Program and any recommended rehabilitation program.

## **Legal Sanctions**

Any student or employee of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute who violates the Institute's Alcohol and Other Drug Policies are subject to either the Institute's sanctions for students or disciplinary actions for employees, as well as criminal sanctions provided by federal, state, and local law.

## Federal Trafficking Penalties

DRUG/SCHEDULE	QUANTITY	PENALTIES	QUANTITY	PENALTIES
Cocaine (Schedule II)	500–4999 grams mixture	<b>First Offense:</b> Not less than 5 yrs, and not more than 40 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if not an individual.  <b>Second Offense:</b> Not less than 10 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment.  Fine of not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.	5 kgs or more mixture	<b>First Offense:</b> Not less than 10 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.  <b>Second Offense:</b> Not less than 20 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment.  Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.  <b>2 or More Prior Offenses:</b> Life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.
Cocaine Base (Schedule II)	28–279 grams mixture		280 grams or more mixture	
Fentanyl (Schedule II)	40–399 grams mixture		400 grams or more mixture	
Fentanyl Analogue (Schedule I)	10–99 grams mixture		100 grams or more mixture	
Heroin (Schedule I)	100–999 grams mixture		1 kg or more mixture	
LSD (Schedule I)	1–9 grams mixture		10 grams or more mixture	
Methamphetamine (Schedule II)	5–49 grams pure or 50–499 grams mixture		50 grams or more pure or 500 grams or more mixture	
PCP (Schedule II)	10–99 grams pure or 100–999 grams mixture		100 gm or more pure or 1 kg or more mixture	
PENALTIES				
Other Schedule I & II drugs (and any drug product containing Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid)	Any amount	<b>First Offense:</b> Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 yrs, or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.  <b>Second Offense:</b> 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.		
Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV)	1 gram	<b>First Offense:</b> Not more than 10 years. If death or serious injury, not more than 15 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2.5 million if not an individual.  <b>Second Offense:</b> Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not more than 30 yrs. Fine not more than \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.		
Other Schedule III drugs	Any amount			
All other Schedule IV drugs	Any amount	<b>First Offense:</b> Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000 if an individual, \$1 million if not an individual.  <b>Second Offense:</b> Not more than 10 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than an individual.		
Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV)	Other than 1 gram or more			
All Schedule V drugs	Any amount	<b>First Offense:</b> Not more than 1 yr. Fine not more than \$100,000 if an individual, \$250,000 if not an individual.  <b>Second Offense:</b> Not more than 4 yrs. Fine not more than \$200,000 if an individual, \$500,000 if not an individual.		

A DEA Resource Guide: 2020 EDITION (page 36)

<https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2020/04/14/dea-releases-2020-drugs-abuse-resource-guide>

## Federal Trafficking Penalties - Marijuana

DRUG	QUANTITY	1st OFFENSE	2nd OFFENSE *
Marijuana (Schedule I)	1,000 kg or more marijuana mixture; or 1,000 or more marijuana plants	Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine not more than life. Fine not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if other than an individual.	Not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if other than an individual.
Marijuana (Schedule I)	100 kg to 999 kg marijuana mixture; or 100 to 999 marijuana plants	Not less than 5 yrs. or more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine not more than life. Fine not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if other than an individual.	Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if other than an individual.
Marijuana (Schedule I)	More than 10 kgs hashish; 50 to 99 kg marijuana mixture More than 1 kg of hashish oil; 50 to 99 marijuana plants	Not less 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 other than an individual.	Not less than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if other than an individual.
Marijuana (Schedule I)	Less than 50 kilograms marijuana (but does not include 50 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight) marijuana plants;  1 to 49 marijuana plants;	Not less than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000, \$1 million if other than an individual	Not less than 10 yrs. Fine \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than individual
Hashish (Schedule I)	10 kg or less		
Hashish Oil (Schedule I)	1 kg or less		

\*The minimum sentence for a violation after two or more prior convictions for a felony drug offense have become final is a mandatory term of life imprisonment without release and a fine up to \$20 million if an individual and \$75 million if other than an individual.

A DEA Resource Guide: 2020 EDITION (page 37)

<https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2020/04/14/dea-releases-2020-drugs-abuse-resource-guide>

## New York State Laws Regarding Alcohol and Possession of Controlled Substances

### Possession

In New York State, you must be 21 in order to possess and consume alcohol. People under the age of 21 in possession of alcohol with the intent to consume may be subject to fines, educational requirements, and/or community service.

## **Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)**

For those aged 21 or older, the legal limit for blood alcohol concentration (BAC) while driving is 0.08%. DWI laws for New York State allow for the suspension of a driver's license (pending prosecution) if a person's BAC at the time of an arrest is a 0.08% or higher.

## **Zero Tolerance**

New York State has a Zero Tolerance Policy as it relates to drinking and driving under the age of 21. Those under the age of 21 who have been found driving under the influence of small amounts of alcohol may lose their license for upwards of 6 months to 1 year. Those under the age of 21 who have been found driving under the influence of larger amounts of alcohol are subject to DWI penalties including jail terms.

## **Sean's Law**

This Law allows the judge to suspend the license or learner's permit of a minor charged with DWI or DWAI until the minor's next court appearance. NY Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1192-a.

## **Social Host Liability Laws**

Should anyone aged 21 or older provide alcohol or allow consumption to a person(s) under 21 years of age on property that they own, lease, or otherwise control, they may be held liable as a "social host" for any injuries and/or damages caused by said person(s) under 21 years of age.

## **False or Fraudulent Identification Cards**

Under New York State Penal Law, anyone under the age of 21 who alters and/or possesses a "false or fraudulent written instrument officially issued or created by a public office, public servant or governmental instrumentality" may face criminal charges. This includes manufacturing or altering a driver's license. Criminal and/or administrative penalties may be received by those under the age of 21 who attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages with an altered or false New York State driver's license.

## **Possession of Controlled Substances**

It is illegal and prohibited for an individual to manufacture, possess, use, dispense, sell, or distribute controlled substances or other illegal drugs (as defined by state and federal law). For more information: [https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/laws\\_and\\_regulations/](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/laws_and_regulations/) and <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/PEN/P3TMA220>

# **HEALTH RISKS**

## **Alcohol**

Alcohol (wine, beer, or liquor) is the most misused drug of choice among Americans and college students. Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant. Recent statistics from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) estimate that about 1,519 college students ages 18 to 24 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes



each year (Hingson et al, 2017). Binge drinking is a pattern of drinking that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels to 0.08 g/dL. Binge drinking for females is defined as 4 or more drinks in one 2-hour sitting. Binge drinking for males is defined as 5 or more drinks in one 2-hour sitting. Around 13% of full-time college students ages 18 to 22 meet the criteria for past-year alcohol use disorder (AUD), according to the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

**Risk for Dependence:** The DSM-5 combined two DSM-4 disorders (alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence) into one single disorder called “alcohol use disorder” which can be categorized as mild, moderate or severe. Tolerance for alcohol may develop rapidly, requiring the user to use more and more alcohol to produce the same effects. This, in turn, may cause psychological and/or physiological dependence to alcohol, which may be evident by attempts to cut back on drinking or quit drinking that are unsuccessful.

**Possible Short-Term Effects:** Alcohol can influence the user’s inhibitions, judgment, slowed reactions, and loss of coordination. Users may experience nausea and vomiting, as well as alcohol poisoning (a medical emergency that results from high blood alcohol levels). Users may engage in violent and/or risky sexual behaviors.

**Possible Long-Term Effects:** Users may experience memory and learning problems, dementia, and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. In addition, users may experience any variety of chronic health issues such as liver disease, digestive problems, high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, and/or various cancers.

**Effects of Overdose:** With excessive amounts of alcohol in the bloodstream, the central nervous system and basic life-support functions begin to shut down (i.e., breathing, temperature control, and heart rate). Users may experience cold, clammy skin, vomiting with no gag reflex, slowed breathing, lowered body temperature, trouble breathing, and even unconsciousness. Overdose may lead to permanent brain damage or death.

Alcohol use during pregnancy may lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, or fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) among newborns. For more information: <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/>

## **Tobacco and Nicotine (Cigarettes, Vaping, and E-Cigarettes)**

Smoking cigarettes kills more Americans than alcohol, car accidents, HIV, guns, and illegal drugs combined. Smoking shortens male smokers’ lives by about 12 years and female smokers’ lives by about 11 years (American Cancer Society).

**Risk for Dependence:** Nicotine is psychologically and physically addictive.

**Short-Term Effects:** A smoker’s cough is common due to the chemicals and heat from cigarettes damaging the airway. Smoking raises blood pressure, decreases circulation, and can cause erectile dysfunction. Immune function is lowered so smokers are more likely to get sick.

**Long-Term Effects:** Tobacco is the number one leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. Rates of heart disease and many cancers are higher in smokers, and chronic obstructive lung diseases (emphysema, bronchitis, etc.) are 10x higher in smokers than nonsmokers (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Thirty percent of cancer deaths are linked to smoking.

Smoking during pregnancy can cause miscarriage, premature birth, and low birth weight (Pineles et al., 2014).

Effects of Overdose: Nicotine poisoning can occur if too much nicotine is consumed, most commonly through e-cigarettes. This can cause dizziness, vomiting, headache, and a racing heart in the first few minutes, then seizures, diarrhea, slowed heartbeat and breathing, and loss of muscle control for several hours after.

For more Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

## **Cannabis (Marijuana and Edibles)**

Marijuana is the dried leaves, stems, flowers, and seeds of the hemp plant known as Cannabis Sativa. Marijuana, a mind-altering psychoactive drug, is produced by the Cannabis Sativa plant. The main ingredient in marijuana that produces the psychoactive effect is THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol). Marijuana is typically smoked but may also be brewed as tea or mixed in food (edibles).

Risk for Dependence: Physical and psychological dependence may be associated with long-term, regular use. Experiences of withdrawal may be experienced upon discontinuation of use.

Possible Short-Term Effects: A host of psychological, physiological, and behavioral effects may be experienced by users and may vary from user to user. Most commonly, sedation, loss of coordination and psychomotor behavior (needed to drive safely), decreased blood pressure, memory and learning problems, increased appetite, difficulty with problem-solving, increased heart rate, and distorted perception may be experienced.

Possible Long-Term Effects: Long-term, regular users may experience emphysema, bronchitis, bronchial asthma, and suppression of the immune system.

Effects of Overdose: There have been no reported deaths associated with marijuana.

For more information: <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets>

## **Stimulants (Includes Amphetamines & Methamphetamines)**

Stimulants are a class of drugs that speed up the body's nervous system. They may come in pill, powder, rock, and/or (injectable) liquid form. Prescription drugs such as Adderall and Ritalin, diet aids, as well as illegally produced drugs such as methamphetamines (meth) and cocaine, are the most common stimulants.

Risk for Dependence: Tolerance for stimulant drugs may develop rapidly, requiring the user to use more and more of the drug to produce the same effects. This, in turn, causes psychological dependence. Dependence may be evident by someone's lack of interest in daily activities and a constant need to acquire the high associated with stimulant drugs.

Possible Short-Term Effects: In the short-term, stimulant drugs may result in extended periods of wakefulness, feelings of exhilaration, increased activity, enhancement of physical and mental performance, a decrease in appetite, and enhanced self-esteem. If too much of the drug is

taken in a short period of time, one may experience sweating, vomiting, chest palpitations, headache, tremors, dizziness, flushed skin, and abdominal cramping.

Possible Long-Term Effects: In chronic users, panic, hostility, aggression, paranoia, and suicidal and homicidal tendencies may be experienced.

Effects of Overdose: Signs of overdose may include high fever, convulsions, and cardiovascular failure.

For more information: <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets>

## **Depressants (Date-Rape Drugs: Rohypnol or “Roofies”)**

Rohypnol is commonly misused to physically and psychologically incapacitate victims targeted for sexual assault, often administered by dissolving it in an alcoholic beverage. It is also associated with polysubstance use, combined with cocaine or other drugs.

Risk for Dependence: Depressants can be physically and psychologically addictive.

Possible Short-Term Effects: Depressants produce sedative, hypnotic, anti-anxiety, and muscle relaxant effects. It decreases reaction time, mental functioning and judgment, and can cause confusion, aggression, and excitability. When used with alcohol, it can create an exaggerated intoxication. Small amounts can produce calmness and relaxed muscles, but larger doses can cause slurred speech, staggering gait, and altered perception. Large doses can cause respiratory depression, coma, and death.

Possible Long-Term Effects: Babies born to biological female individuals abusing depressants may be physically dependent on the drugs and show withdrawal symptoms shortly after birth. Birth defects and behavioral problems may also result.

Effects of Overdose: Overdose causes severe sedation, unconsciousness, slowed heart rate, and suppression of respiration leading to death.

For more information: <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets>

## **Opiates (Includes Heroin and Prescription Pain Medications)**

Opioids are a class of drug that has a general pain-relieving effect. Opioids pose a high chance for addiction and pose significant risks in the event of an overdose. While agents such as naloxone are now available at pharmacies over the counter to help counteract the effects of an overdose, it is not a catch-all. Even if conditions improve, emergency medical attention should still be sought.

Risk for Dependence: Opiates are highly addictive and have severe withdrawal effects.

Possible Short-Term Effects: They produce effects such as relaxation, euphoria, pain relief, sedation, confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, urinary retention, pupillary constriction, and respiratory depression.

Possible Long-Term Effects: The use of opiates can cause physical and psychological dependence. Tolerance can develop, requiring users to consume larger quantities for the same euphoric effect.

Effects of Overdose: As drug purity is unknown from “street drugs,” risk for overdose is high. Overdosing can result in severe respiratory depression, drowsiness progressing to stupor or coma, lack of skeletal muscle tone, cold and clammy skin, constricted pupils, and reduction in blood pressure and heart rate. Respiratory depression can lead to death.

For more information: <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets>

## **Designer Drugs**

Designer drugs are illegally produced drugs that are meant to mimic the pharmacological effects of controlled substances but differ slightly in their chemical makeup. Designer drugs may fall under any drug category. The most common designer drugs include bath salts (synthetic stimulants), synthetic cannabis, and synthetic opioids. For more information: <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets>

### **Bath Salts**

Risk for Dependence: As with their counterpart (controlled stimulant drugs), tolerance may develop rapidly, requiring the user to use more and more of the drug to produce the same effects. This, in turn, causes psychological dependence.

Possible Short-Term and/or Long-Term Effects: Users may experience psychological effects of this stimulant, such as agitation, combativeness, and aggressive, if not violent self-destructive behaviors. Users may also experience confusion and/or acute psychosis. In addition, users may experience sweating, headaches, teeth-grinding, palpitations, and seizures. Users may also experience paranoia, hallucinations, and/or delusions. Toxic effects may include hyperthermia, hypertension, and rapid heartbeat.

Effects of Overdose: Given unknown chemicals and lack of quality control measures during the manufacturing of these drugs, they can be lethal.

### **Synthetic Cannabis**

Risk for Dependence: Unlike cannabis derived from the Cannabis Sativa plant, synthetic cannabis has been reported to produce severe adverse effects, including acute dependence and withdrawal.

Possible Short-Term and/or Long-Term Effects: Users may experience paranoid delusions and hallucinations. Disorganized thoughts, severe agitation, and violence have been associated with synthetic marijuana use. In addition, users may experience an increase in blood pressure and heart rate, vomiting, seizures, and tremors, as well as unconsciousness.

Effects of Overdose: Given unknown chemicals and lack of quality control measures during the manufacturing of these drugs, they can be lethal.

## **Synthetic Opioids**

Some synthetic opioids like fentanyl and methadone have been approved for medical use, but when not used appropriately under medical supervision, they can be extremely deadly.

**Risk for Dependence:** As with their counterpart (controlled opioids or pain medications), there is a high risk for dependence and addiction, with severe withdrawal effects.

**Possible Short-Term and/or Long-Term Effects:** Users may experience feelings of euphoria and relaxation, as well as confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and coma. Respiratory depression and/or failure may also occur, putting the user at risk for death.

**Effects of Overdose:** Given unknown chemicals and lack of quality control measures during the manufacturing of these drugs, they can be lethal.

## **Cocaine**

Cocaine is an intense, euphoria-producing stimulant drug with strong addictive potential. Cocaine is often sold “cut” with other products. Typical cutting agents are sugars, laundry detergents, laxatives, or other powdery substances.

**Risk for Dependence:** Cocaine is highly addictive and has severe withdrawal effects.

**Possible Short-Term Effects:** The intensity of cocaine’s euphoric effects depends on how quickly the drug reaches the brain, which depends on the dose and method of use. Other effects include increased alertness and excitation, as well as restlessness, irritability, and anxiety.

**Possible Long-Term Effects:** Tolerance to cocaine’s effects develops rapidly, causing users to take higher and higher doses. Taking high doses of cocaine or prolonged use, such as bingeing, usually causes paranoia. The crash that follows euphoria is characterized by mental and physical exhaustion, sleep, and depression lasting several days. Following the crash, users experience a craving to use cocaine again.

**Effects of Overdose:** Abuse of cocaine has led to cardiac arrhythmias, sudden cardiac arrest, convulsions, strokes, and death.

For more information: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/cocaine>

## **Hallucinogens (PCP and LSD)**

Hallucinogens are found in plants and fungi or are synthetically produced and are among the oldest known group of drugs used for their ability to alter human perception and mood. Hallucinogens come in a variety of forms. MDMA or ecstasy tablets are sold in many colors with a variety of logos to attract youth. LSD is sold in the form of impregnated paper (blotter acid), typically imprinted with colorful graphic designs. Other names or forms include Acid, Blotter, Blotter Acid, Cubes, Doses, Fry, Mind Candy, Mushrooms, Shrooms, Special K, STP, X, and XTC.

**Risk for Dependence:** Most hallucinogens are not considered addictive.

Possible Short-Term Effects: Sensory effects include perceptual distortions that vary with dose, setting, and mood. Psychological effects include distortions of thought associated with time and space. Physical effects include elevated heart rate, increased blood pressure, and dilated pupils.

Possible Long-Term Effects: Weeks or even months after some hallucinogens have been taken, the user may experience flashbacks — fragmentary recurrences of certain aspects of the drug experience in the absence of taking the drug.

Effects of Overdose: Deaths exclusively from an acute overdose of LSD, magic mushrooms, and mescaline are rare. Deaths generally occur due to suicide, accidents, and dangerous behavior or to the person inadvertently eating poisonous plant material. A severe overdose of PCP and ketamine can result in respiratory depression, coma, convulsions, seizures, and death due to respiratory arrest.

For more information: <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets>

## **Inhalants (Air-Conditioning Refrigerant, Markers, Spray Paint, Glue, and Other Chemicals)**

Inhalants are often household products and are rarely taken by any route other than inhalation. The rates of inhalant drug use are higher in younger children. Intoxication occurs quickly and only lasts a short period of time, so repeated sniffing is common in a session.

Risk for Dependence: Inhalation of chemicals is generally not considered addictive.

Possible Short-Term Effects: Many effects are like that of alcohol intoxication. Immediate effects include nausea, sneezing, coughing, nosebleeds, fatigue, slurred speech, lack of coordination, and loss of appetite. Some chemicals can cause rapid pulse, headaches, and involuntary passing of urine and feces. High concentrations can cause disorientation, violent behavior, suffocation, unconsciousness, or death.

Possible Long-Term Effects: Significant brain damage may result to areas of the brain involved in thinking, moving, vision, and hearing. Other effects include weight loss, fatigue, and permanent damage to the nervous system.

Effects of Overdose: Sudden sniffing death can result from a single session of inhalant use in a healthy person. Individuals can also suffocate or choke from inhalation techniques, leading to death.

For more information: [https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/drug\\_of\\_abuse.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/drug_of_abuse.pdf)

## **Anabolic Steroids**

Anabolic steroids are synthetically made drug variants of the naturally occurring male hormone testosterone. These drugs are typically used to enhance physical and/or athletic performance by promoting muscle growth. Most widely sold on the internet, these drugs may also be sold at gyms, bodybuilding competitions, and by trainers, coaches, and/or teammates. Steroids may be ingested orally, applied to the skin, and/or injected intramuscularly.

Risk for Dependence: Psychological dependence and addiction are possible with anabolic steroids.

Possible Short-Term Effects: The effects of anabolic steroids depend on many factors, including the sex of the user, age, type, and amount of the anabolic steroid being used, as well as the duration of use. Adolescent male users may experience stunted growth, early sexual development, and acne. Adolescent female users may experience irreversible physical changes such as increased body and facial hair, a deepening of the voice, male-pattern baldness, menstrual irregularities, and lengthening of the clitoris. Adult male users may experience reduced sperm count, enlarged breast tissue, shrinking of the testicles, sterility, or an increased risk for prostate cancer.

Possible Long-Term Effects: Male and female users may experience high cholesterol levels which can lead to a variety of health problems, including an increased risk of heart attacks, coronary artery disease, and strokes. Damage to the liver, fatal inflammation of the heart lining, as well as risk for contracting infections (i.e., HIV, AIDS, hepatitis B or C) via the sharing of contaminated needles may occur.

Effects of Overdose: There are no overdoses associated with anabolic steroids. However, long-term users may experience adverse effects, as listed above.

For more information: [https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/drug\\_of\\_abuse.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/drug_of_abuse.pdf)

## **ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS**

### **Training Intervention Procedures (TIPS)**

TIPS is the global leader in education and training for the responsible service, sale, and consumption of alcohol. Proven effective by third-party studies, TIPS is a skills-based training program designed to prevent intoxication, underage drinking, and drunk driving. All students who serve alcohol in our on-campus Pub are required to take this training.

### **AlcoholEdu for College**

AlcoholEdu for College is an online module used to educate pre-matriculating freshmen and transfer students on the risks of alcohol consumption and assess their knowledge prior to coming to Rensselaer. Student Health Services oversees the administration of AlcoholEdu for College for all incoming freshmen and transfer students.

### **Bystander Intervention Training**

Bystander Intervention Training educates participants on ways to safely intervene in situations involving, but not limited to substance misuse, sexual misconduct, hazing, and mental health emergencies. Participants are encouraged to develop scenarios and responses to strengthen their skills in confrontation and peer support. All student club officers and members of the Fraternity & Sorority Commons are strongly encouraged to take this training. All other students

are encouraged to be trained and can request this training through the Student Health Services' Office of Health Promotion.

## **Narcan Training**

Narcan Training is made available to the entire student body each semester via Student Health Services' Office of Health Promotion. Naloxone (aka Narcan) is an over-the-counter medication used to treat an opioid overdose. In-person trainings are facilitated by the Rensselaer County Department of Health, and all attendees receive a free Narcan Kit. Virtual trainings are provided by a health educator from the Office of Health Promotion who is certified as a New York State Opioid Overdose Prevention Trainer. Attendees of the virtual training also receive a free Narcan Kit.

## **SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION**

### **Rensselaer Shuttle**

The Rensselaer Shuttle provides students with safe and free transportation Monday through Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All Rensselaer ID holders are welcome to utilize the RPI shuttles and must present their Rensselaer ID when boarding. This program is operated under the supervision of Rensselaer's Parking and Transportation Services department.

## **COUNSELING AND SUPPORT**

### **Students**

The RPI Counseling Center, which is part of RPI Student Health Services, is staffed by a licensed psychiatrist, physician associate, master's prepared licensed therapists, and a case manager who has specialized training in college health issues. The Counseling Center provides a variety of services including, but not limited to, individual and group therapy, faculty/staff consultation, and outreach services. The goal of the Counseling Center is to help students maximize their sense of well-being as well as their academic, personal, and social growth. Additional counseling and on-call crisis counseling is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year through our vendor-based student assistance program (BHS), which can be reached by calling 518-276-8888. The hours of the Counseling Center are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the academic year. Counseling services are available in-person and via Webex or telephone as appropriate. Please contact the Counseling Center for an appointment by calling 518-276-6479 or emailing: [counseling@rpi.edu](mailto:counseling@rpi.edu) Students who need intensive treatment may be referred to licensed providers off-campus.

### **Faculty and Staff**

Faculty and staff are eligible for mental health and substance abuse counseling (including inpatient and outpatient services) through the health plans provided by RPI Human Resources. Prior authorization may be required for approval, and employees are encouraged to speak with a medical professional to get a referral for counseling and treatment. These programs provide confidential assessment, referral, and treatment for alcohol and other drug problems as well as mental health concerns for the employee and their dependents. All employees and their



dependents may also access free short-term counseling, substance abuse assessment and referrals, regardless of whether they are enrolled in RPI's health plans, via our BHS Employee Assistance Program. For a full list of benefits, please refer to the most current benefits guide located at: <https://hr.rpi.edu/benefits>

## **LOCAL TREATMENT CENTER**

### **Conifer Park – Troy Outpatient Clinic**

Phone: (518) 274-5143

Fax: (518) 273-1350

Address: 2435 Sixth Ave., Troy, NY 12180

Website: <https://www.coniferpark.com/outpatient/troy>

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUPS**

### **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meetings**

A complete list of meetings available in Rensselaer County:

<https://aaahmbny.org/meetings/?tsml-region=rensselaer-county>

### **Al-Anon of the Greater Capital District**

Al-Anon meetings are for anyone who has been affected by someone's drinking. For a listing of meetings available in the Capital District of New York visit: <https://www.al-anon-8ny.org/online-meeting-schedule>

### **Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Meetings**

<http://abcdrna.org/>

## **STUDENT RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CONDUCT**

### **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Student Judicial Process**

<https://info.rpi.edu/dean-students/student-rights-responsibilities-and-judicial-affairs>

### **Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy for Students (Revised May 22, 2023)**

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is a campus where we place a high priority on the health and safety of all members of the campus community – students, faculty, staff and visitors. The Institute strives to provide an environment where all students are able to pursue their dreams and aspirations. At the same time, we face stark realities regarding the harm often caused by the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs in communities around us and on our campus. In light of the risks and dangers presented by the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs by

students, we develop, promulgate, and enforce policies, procedures and accountabilities that reflect our institutional values.

The Institute's aim is to maintain an alcohol and other drug policy that is clear in its expectations; applies in an appropriate manner across student residential and organizational affiliations; informs and educates individuals with regard to the policy and the risk factors associated with use or abuse; creates an environment that promotes safety and individual accountability; and maintains a healthy campus community where problems associated with alcohol and other drugs are minimal.

The overall philosophy of the Institute is that individuals and organizations in the Rensselaer community are responsible for their own actions. When making decisions to consume an alcoholic beverage or to provide alcoholic beverages to others, individuals and organizations must be mindful of the inherent consequences and risks involved. In addition, they are responsible for understanding and complying with applicable laws. The Institute will not shield individuals or organizations from the legal consequences of their actions should they choose to violate these laws.

This policy applies as stated, regardless of state, locality or other jurisdiction in which the offense occurs. The regulations in this policy are designed to encourage consistent and reasonable standards in our campus community. It is expected that all members will contribute to maintaining a positive and healthy living and learning environment by adhering to this policy.

The Institute Alcohol and Other Drug Policy contains sections on:

- I. State and Local Law Related to Alcohol
- II. Institute Regulations on Alcohol (printed below)
- III. Approval Procedures for On-Campus Events
- IV. Specific Area Policies for Alcohol
- V. The Law: Statutes Regarding Other Drugs
- VI. Institute Regulations on Other Drugs (printed below)
- VII. Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Responsibility and Enforcement
- VIII. Violations/Sanctions (printed below)
- IX. Institute Alcohol Review Committee (ARC)
- X. Rensselaer Good Samaritan Policy (printed below)
- XI. Rensselaer's Alcohol & Other Drug Education Prevention Program

In accordance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (1989), the complete Rensselaer Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy for Students ("AOD Policy") is available at: <https://info.rpi.edu/dean-students/student-rights-responsibilities-and-conduct>

## **Institute Regulations on Alcohol**

### **(Section II, Rensselaer Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy for Students)**

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of alcohol is prohibited on Institute property or as part of any activity sanctioned or sponsored by the Institute. The administration at Rensselaer will not authorize events where drinking under the legal age, as determined by applicable law, will be knowingly permitted. Individuals and organizations who sponsor approved events involving alcoholic beverages shall assume full responsibility and liability for the event and for the behavior of event participants and attendees.

In our continuing commitment to adhere to Institute policy and applicable laws, it is the historical and regular practice to issue a minimum disciplinary suspension of two years (6 consecutive semesters) to any Rensselaer recognized student organization found to have served alcohol to an underage individual at any Institute or group sanctioned or sponsored activity (on or off campus.) It is the hearing officer's role to consider the unique details of each incident and apply an appropriate sanction(s) with the agreement of the Dean of Students. In addition, all organization alcohol privileges are subject to revocation while a group is under investigation and for the duration of the disciplinary process.

Note: Vaporizing, inhaling, and other methods of absorbing alcohol are also considered consumption of alcohol and are also prohibited.

A. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited:

1. At all Institute owned, controlled, or affiliated residential facilities that house undergraduate students;
2. At the residential facilities of any recognized or affiliated student organizations, or groups, including but not limited to fraternities and sororities;
3. On campus, on Institute property, at Institute events, and at events or programs held or sponsored by the Institute or by Rensselaer student organizations, except in accordance with this policy by persons 21 years of age or older as follows:
  - At events held at approved locations, other than residential facilities described in A.1 and A.2 above, for which required approvals have been obtained pursuant to Section III and Section IV (D) of this policy;
  - In areas licensed for regular beer and wine service

B. Possession or consumption of alcohol by any person under age 21 on campus is a violation of this policy and the Rensselaer Grounds for Disciplinary Action (GDA) for students; such conduct on the part of an employee is a violation of Human Resources policies.

C. Any person under age 21 who misrepresents their age in order to obtain alcohol has violated the GDA if that person is a student; such conduct on the part of an employee is a violation of Human Resources policies.

D. Any person who supplies or makes alcohol available to someone under age 21 has violated this policy and the law. If that person is a student, they have violated the GDA; such conduct on the part of an employee is a violation of Human Resources policies.

E. In accordance with state law, no money may be charged for any event at which alcoholic beverages are present unless a license or permit is obtained from the state liquor authority.

F. An Institute alcohol permit must be obtained from the Alcohol Review Committee (c/o the Student Health Center) for any event occurring on Institute grounds at which alcohol is served or present. Exceptions are:

- Licensed designated area of Rensselaer Union; or
- Buildings leased or rented to faculty, staff or private non-student groups

G. The consumption of alcohol or possession of an open container of alcohol is prohibited in all generally accessible or common areas on campus, including but not limited to corridors, stairwells, athletic facilities, elevators, lounges, classrooms, labs or outside campus areas (i.e. Quad) unless an alcohol permit has been obtained for a designated area. At no time may alcohol be consumed in potentially hazardous environments.

H. Displays of any alcohol related items or materials visible to the public; including but not limited to alcoholic beverage containers (empty or full), banners or signs are not allowed in any residential facility.

I. Events shall not include any activity which encourages the use and/or abuse of alcohol.

J. The serving or availability of alcohol at events being held in or about an undergraduate or student organization residential facility as described in Section II (A) is prohibited.

- K. The presence, possession, or use of large quantities of alcohol on campus including but not limited to kegs, beer balls, or any other bulk containers of alcohol, is prohibited on Institute grounds with the exception of areas holding NYS license for beer and wine service.
- L. Beverages containing hard alcohol (defined as 15% or more alcohol by volume (ABV)) are prohibited at events involving students.
- M. Alcohol will not be permitted at Rensselaer athletic events.
- N. Off campus events: It is expected that all members of the Rensselaer community will comply with all governmental laws related to alcohol. Any Rensselaer group that plans an off-campus event involving alcohol must adhere to the Rensselaer Alcohol and Other Drug Policy for students. Faculty and staff must adhere to applicable Human Resources Policy.
- O. Advertising of any event must not imply that the event is for the purpose of consuming alcohol and may not be displayed before the permit to serve alcohol is obtained. No specific mention of alcohol is allowed in the advertising. The words "beverages" and "refreshments" are acceptable.
- P. At any event where alcohol is available, a non-alcoholic beverage (in addition to water) must be equally and continuously accessible and available.
- Q. Alcohol may not be served at any event unless food is also served. The food should include items high in protein and carbohydrates.
- R. The sponsor or host is responsible for implementing reasonable measures to ensure that alcohol is not served or made available to persons under age 21 or who are intoxicated. Sponsors must ensure that all alcoholic beverages are provided by a licensed third-party vendor who will certify that all servers are properly trained. Contact the Alcohol Review Committee ("ARC") for training information.
- S. The server(s) of alcohol will be sober and must not consume alcoholic beverages prior to, or during the event, or on the premises where the event is held.
- T. Guests will not be allowed to bring additional alcohol to an event. The only alcohol permitted for consumption is that specified on the ARC permit.
- U. "BYO" ("Bring Your Own" Alcohol) events will not be permitted.
- V. Positive proof of age is required at any event at which alcohol is served and/or consumed. No licensee, or agent, or employee of such licensee shall accept as written evidence of age by any such person for the purchase or service of any alcoholic beverage, any documentation other than:
- (i) a valid driver's license or non-driver identification card issued by the commissioner of motor vehicle, the federal government, any United States territory, commonwealth or possession, the District of Columbia, a state government within the United States or a provincial government of the dominion of Canada, or
  - (ii) a valid passport issued by the United States government or any other country, or
  - (iii) an identification card issued by the armed forces of the United States.
- W. The serving or availability of alcohol must be limited to a single designated point of service. Consumption of alcohol is only permitted in the approved area designated for the event.
- X. Alcohol and Drug Policies for faculty and staff are contained in the Human Resources Policy Guidelines Manual (#800.4, Alcohol Use and Possession; and 800.5, Use and Possession of Illegal Drugs).

#### EVENTS WITH ALCOHOL SPONSORED BY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES (Section IV D, Rensselaer Alcohol and Drug Policy for Students (AOD Policy))

An event, especially those including alcohol service, is deemed to be the responsibility of a student organization(s) when the Institute judicial process has determined that the details of the event indicate such. Examples of qualifying details include but are not limited to; the number of

members of a particular organization relative to the total organization membership and/or the number of attendees of the event, the funding of the event by an organization or its members, the location of the event, the planning and/or promotion of the event by the organization or by members of the organization. The reference to student organizations includes, but is not limited to, recognized social fraternities and sororities, intercollegiate, intramural and club sports teams.

Student organizations are subject to the following policies and guidelines established by the Institute and/or consistent with any regional or national umbrella affiliate or association (e.g., Interfraternity Council or Panhellenic Council, NIC) policies and regulations, whichever is most restrictive:

1. All events must comply with the rules for events set forth in Sections II and III of this Policy (the AOD Policy).
2. No hard alcohol (beverages with 15% or more ABV) is allowed at any student sponsored event.
3. Non-alcoholic beverages, in addition to water, must be made available by the host organization at any event where alcohol is available (section II, P, AOD Policy).
4. Alcoholic beverages may not be purchased or brought into the event except by a licensed third-party vendor (section II, E, AOD Policy).
5. All events are restricted to a designated number of invited guests and not to exceed the legal limit of persons allowed in a facility or its common area, whichever is most restrictive.
6. Open social events are prohibited (An open social event is defined as any event for which no invitation is given and/or general advertising is used).
7. Alcohol service at any event must be by a licensed third-party vendor.
8. Any event sponsored, hosted or organized by a group, club, or organization, or members of, must be a registered with and approved by: the Associate Dean, Greek Life Commons, for social fraternity and sorority events; or the Associate Director, Student Activities, for events to be held by other student organizations. Event registration must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Hosting organization name;
  - b. Date, time and location of event including the length of the event;
  - c. Name/contact information of licensed third-party vendor who will serve at event;
  - c. Process used to notify neighbors, if in a residential area;
  - d. Designated contact person, cell phone number;
  - e. Membership list;
  - f. Invitation list;
  - g. Confirmed attendance list differentiating 21 and over and under 21 attendees;
  - h. Hand stamp or wrist band for attendees 21 or over
  - i. Personal identification required to verify date of birth (as described in, section II, V, AOD Policy).
9. The event must be at an approved location other than the organization's residential facility or chapter house. If the event is to be held on campus, an alcohol permit must also be obtained from the Alcohol Review Committee, pursuant to Section III of the AOD Policy.

## **Institute Regulations on Other Drugs**

### **(Section IV, Rensselaer Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy for Students)**

Rensselaer has implemented a zero-tolerance drug policy which strictly prohibits:

- Possession, use, or facilitation of use of any "Prohibited Substances" or "Drug Paraphernalia" as defined herein; and

- Attempted or actual sale, manufacture, marketing, trafficking, or transfer of any Prohibited Substance, or Drug Paraphernalia.

Prohibited Substances are any of the following for which the individual does not have a legal license or valid prescription: any illegal drug, controlled substance (as defined by State and Federal law), or substance, or manner of use, that is generally recognized as being detrimental or dangerous to the health, welfare or safety of individuals or the community, although not necessarily illegal (including but not limited to Molly, Spice, K-2, whippets, performance enhancing drugs, prescription drugs, and research drugs).

Drug Paraphernalia is equipment, products, or materials primarily used for the purpose of making, using concealing, or distributing Prohibited Substances.

Students found responsible for any of the above behaviors are subject to the sanctions set forth herein.

Notwithstanding state law that may decriminalize use and possession of marijuana in certain circumstances (e.g., the possession of a State-issued medical marijuana license, prescription or the equivalent), Rensselaer strictly prohibits the use, facilitation of use, consumption, possession, sale, manufacture, marketing, trafficking or transfer of marijuana or THC in any of its forms. Any student with a disability who believes they may require access to a Prohibited Substance is required to contact the Office of Disability Services for Students to discuss accommodations and support.

Rensselaer is an educational institution and not a law enforcement agency, and therefore does not apply sanctions of the law. However, Rensselaer will not disregard the law and will not shield individuals from the legal consequences of their actions should they violate the law. In addition, individuals who have violated the law are also subject to disciplinary action. Students will be disciplined according to the procedures in this document and the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Pursuant to the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 the conviction of a student for any offense, during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV, HEA program funds, under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs will result in the loss of eligibility for any Title IV, HEA grant, loan, or work study assistance (HEA Sec. 484(r) (1)); (20 U.S.C. 1091(r) (1)).

These Regulations on Other Drugs apply to all admitted students, including enrolled and non-enrolled students, for conduct that occurs both on- and off-campus and regardless of state, locality, or other legal jurisdiction. In addition, the potential loss of financial aid eligibility due to a drug-related conviction applies regardless of where the illegal conduct occurs.

### **Enforcement of Regulations on Other Drugs**

In addition to possible prosecution under state or federal laws, persons who violate the prohibitions of this policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include, but are not limited to, suspension, expulsion, and/or referral for possible prosecution by federal or state authorities. Any disciplinary sanction imposed may also include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program and other requirements as a condition of reinstatement.

## 1. Prohibited Substances Hearing Board:

Upon completion of the judicial inquiry, the Prohibited Substances Hearing Board has jurisdiction over appeals of findings issued and sanctions assigned concerning these Institute Regulations on Other Drugs. The Prohibited Substances Hearing Board shall be comprised of three Institute judicial hearing officers as designated by the Dean of Students. Appeals from decisions by the Prohibited Substances Hearing Board may be taken to the Review Board and President as described in the Handbook.

When an appeal is filed concerning an incident or series of related incidents that involves both a violation of Institute Regulations on Other Drugs and other Institute policies, the Prohibited Substances Hearing Board will review the appeal of both Institute Regulations on Other Drugs violation and such other Institute policies, with the following exceptions: a) any alleged violations of the Sexual Misconduct Policy will be handled in accordance with that policy, and b) if a judicial inquiry determines that a student did not violate the Institute Regulations on Other Drugs but that the student did violate other Institute policies, an appeal of the findings will be referred to the Student Judicial Board.

## 2. Mandatory Minimum Sanctions:

The following shall be considered mandatory minimum sanctions:

### A. For Trafficking Violations:

Rensselaer has a zero-tolerance policy for any student found to have engaged in the sale, manufacture, marketing, trafficking or transfer of any Prohibited Substance, including marijuana or THC, drug paraphernalia, or the intent and preparation to do so (hereinafter, trafficking). The penalty for students found to have engaged in such trafficking, including a first violation, will be expulsion from the Institute, without possibility of return.

### B. For Use or Possession of Prohibited Substances (excludes marijuana/THC use):

In conformance with Rensselaer's zero tolerance drug use policy, any student found to have engaged in a violation of this policy related to the personal, non-trafficking use, consumption or possession of a Prohibited Substance other than marijuana or THC use or prescription drug/over-the-counter medication misuse shall be subject to the following minimum sanctions:

- First Violation, if no finding of habitual use: Immediate suspension from the Institute for a term of not less than one (1) calendar year. After the expiration of such term of suspension, and provided the student has had no other suspensions, expulsions or involuntary withdrawals for violation of Rensselaer's or any other institution's drug policy, the student, may be permitted to re-apply for admission to Rensselaer. Reapplication for admission hereunder is subject to the terms for Disciplinary Suspension found in the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights & Responsibilities under the section entitled Types of Disciplinary Actions. Conditions for readmission may include, but are not limited to, mandatory educational programming and/or training, counseling, drug testing, supervision, restriction or loss of privileges, or other requirements. If such student is not granted permission to re-apply for admission, or where such re-application is denied, the student shall be deemed to have been expelled.
- Second Violation, or First Violation with a finding of habitual use: The student shall be immediately expelled from the Institute without the possibility of return.

A determination that a student is a habitual user of Prohibited Substances may occur through external police, internal Public Safety, Student Life or other information sources that make the condition known to the Administration of the Institute. Each allegation will be investigated and corroborated through whatever channels are available. Rensselaer, in its sole and exclusive discretion, reserves the right to obtain medical advice and assistance to determine whether the subject of the inquiry is a habitual user of any Prohibited Substance. Parents or guardians of the subject may be notified immediately of a person identified as being a habitual user of a Prohibited Substance and subject to this policy.

C. For Use or Possession of Marijuana/THC and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia  
Any student found to have engaged in a violation of this policy relating to the personal, non-trafficking use, consumption or possession of marijuana/THC or possession of drug paraphernalia shall be subject to the following:

- First Violation: Sanctions as determined by the Rensselaer Judicial Process, including but not limited to, disciplinary probation, referral for required educational programming and training, substance use assessment, restriction or loss of privileges, or other requirements as severity of the offense dictates, including the loss of housing privileges, substance use assessment, required treatment, and/or drug testing.
- Second Violation: The student shall be suspended from the Institute for a term of not less than one (1) calendar year. After the expiration of such term of suspension, and provided the student has had no other suspensions, expulsions or involuntary withdrawals for violation of Rensselaer's or any other institution's drug policy, the student, may be permitted to re-apply for admission to Rensselaer. Reapplication for admission hereunder is subject to the terms for Disciplinary Suspension found in the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights & Responsibilities under the section entitled Types of Disciplinary Actions. Conditions for readmission may include, but are not limited to, mandatory educational programming and/or training, counseling, drug testing, supervision, restriction or loss of privileges, or other requirements. If such student is not granted permission to apply for re-admission, or where such re-application is denied, the student shall be deemed to have been expelled.

## **Violations/Sanctions**

### **(Section VIII, Rensselaer Alcohol and Other Drug Policy for Students)**

A. Violations of the Alcohol and Other Drug Policy by any student shall constitute a violation of the Grounds for Disciplinary Action. Person(s) shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the Institute.

B. Possible sanctions are outlined for students in this document and the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and for employees in the Human Resources Policy Guidelines.

C. Judicial Actions and sanctions for students under this Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy are subject to the Institute's Good Samaritan Policy and the provisions for Alcohol and Drug Use Amnesty in the Rensselaer Sexual Misconduct Policy.

D. Violations by any faculty and staff members of the Human Resources Policy #800.4, Alcohol Use and Possession and/or #800.5, Use and Possession of Illegal Drugs shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including the termination of employment. Violations by vendors, contractors or visitors of this Policy may result in those individuals being prohibited from entering or remaining on campus facilities owned, leased or controlled by the Institute.



# RENSELAER GOOD SAMARITAN POLICY

## (Section X, Rensselaer Alcohol and Other Drug Policy)

Student health and safety are primary concerns of the Rensselaer community. It is imperative that someone call for medical assistance when an individual is a victim of and/or experiences alcohol intoxication, drug overdose, or serious injury after consuming alcohol or other drugs. In general, people may be reluctant to seek emergency or medical attention for fear of judicial consequences for themselves, the person in need of assistance, and/or the organization hosting the event where the situation occurs.

Since these situations are potentially life threatening, Rensselaer seeks to reduce barriers to seeking assistance. The Good Samaritan Policy is part of Rensselaer's approach to reducing harmful consequences caused by the consumption of alcohol and other drugs. The Good Samaritan Policy is the Institute's commitment to increase the likelihood that community members will call for assistance when faced with an alcohol or drug-related emergency.

An individual who receives emergency assistance and/or medical treatment due to alcohol or drug consumption and completes an alcohol and other drugs assessment, education activities, and/or treatment as assigned through the Rensselaer Health Center will not be subject to judicial action for violating Institute Alcohol & Other Drugs Policy.

A person who calls for emergency assistance and/or medical treatment due to alcohol or drug consumption on behalf of another person will not be subject to judicial action for violating Institute Alcohol & Other Drugs Policy but may be required to attend an alcohol and other drugs education program if deemed necessary by the Rensselaer Health Center.

A representative of an organization hosting an event is expected to promptly call for emergency assistance and/or medical attention due to evidence of a potential health or other emergency resulting from consumption of alcohol or other drugs by a guest at the event. This act of responsibility will mitigate the judicial consequences against the organization, resulting in non-punitive alternative sanctions against the organization for violations of the Institute's Alcohol & Other Drug Policy at the time of the incident. However, failure to call for emergency assistance and/or medical treatment will be considered an "intolerable circumstance" affecting judicial sanctions against the organization and persons found to be knowledgeable and/or responsible for the event if violations of Grounds for Disciplinary Action have occurred.

**Requirement to Obtain Medical Assistance:** Rensselaer students, student organizations, and other members of the Rensselaer Community are required to summon emergency medical services (by calling 911 or Rensselaer Public Safety at (518) 276-6611) to obtain assistance and evaluation for any person who is in their room or immediate presence and is, or is suspected to be, under the influence of alcohol or other prohibited substances, when that person's well-being and safety is known to be or reasonably should be known to be in jeopardy. When an individual knows or reasonably should know that another person is in jeopardy, failing to summon emergency medical services (e.g., taking the person back to their residence and dropping them off, driving the person to a hospital in a personal vehicle, asking another person to take responsibility for the intoxicated individual without seeking medical assistance for the ill person) shall be considered a violation of this policy.

## **Alcohol and Drug Use Amnesty under the Sexual Misconduct Policy:**

The health and safety of every student at Rensselaer is of utmost importance. Rensselaer recognizes that students who have been drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary) at the time that Sexual Misconduct occurs may be hesitant to report such incidents due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. Rensselaer strongly encourages students to report Sexual Misconduct to Institute officials. A student witness (including Complainant or Respondent) acting in good faith or a reporting student acting in good faith who discloses any incident of Sexual Misconduct to Rensselaer officials or law enforcement will not be subject to the Rensselaer policies relating to alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the Sexual Misconduct. However, the use of alcohol or drugs will never function as a defense for any behavior that violates the Rensselaer Sexual Misconduct Policy.

## **ALCOHOL USE AND POSSESSION, USE AND POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS, AND TOBACCOS USE AND SMOKING POLICIES FOR STAFF AND FACULTY**

### **Tobacco Use and Smoking**

#### Purpose:

To ensure that all Rensselaer facilities and properties are tobacco-free in an effort to provide Rensselaer's faculty, staff, students and visitors with a healthy and respectful working, living and learning environment.

#### Definitions:

##### Tobacco Use:

The act of using any tobacco product in any Institute facility or Institute outdoor area, including, but not limited to chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes (with or without nicotine, tobacco and/or tobacco products), electronic devices (i.e., vaping), and the act of smoking or carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other smoking material or device.

##### Institute Facilities:

Any facility or property that is owned, leased, used, occupied operated, managed, or otherwise controlled by Rensselaer, including but not limited to: private offices, lounges, dining areas, recreational facilities, residence halls, storage areas, restrooms, elevators, hallways, rooms or areas with shared office equipment, employee or student medical facilities, service shops, garages, tunnels, sidewalks, facilities operations areas, athletic facilities, all institute vehicles (owned or leased), and personally owned and rented vehicles when used to transport Rensselaer faculty, staff or students on any Institute-related business, academic or student life activities.

Institute Outdoor Areas:

Any Institute outdoor area that is open to access by the public or campus community, including but not limited to parking lots, sidewalks, athletic fields, lawn areas and any Institute facility entrance or egress.

Policy:

Rensselaer prohibits tobacco use in any Institute facility or Institute outdoor area, including, but not limited to chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes (with or without nicotine, tobacco and/or tobacco products), and electronic devices (i.e., vaping), and the act of smoking or carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other smoking material or device.

It is also the policy of Rensselaer to prohibit the sale of tobacco and smoking products on campus. Studies indicate that tobacco use, smoking and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke are significant health hazards.

In keeping with Rensselaer's desire to protect the health of its faculty, staff, students, visitors, other campus constituencies, and the public in general, it is Rensselaer's policy to provide a tobacco-free, smoking-free environment in all Institute facilities and Institute outdoor areas in full conformance with all applicable laws.

Rensselaer will not discriminate or retaliate against any employee or applicant for legally using tobacco products if this use occurs off premises (i.e., not in an Institute facility as defined herein), before or after their work hours, and without using employer equipment or other property, in accordance with the requirements of applicable law. Specifically, Rensselaer will not refuse to hire or employ an individual, or terminate, or otherwise discriminate in compensation, promotions, or terms, conditions, and privileges of employment for the above reason. Work hours are paid and unpaid breaks and meal periods when employees are expected to be engaged in work or actually engaged in work, unless applicable law provides otherwise.

It is also the policy of Rensselaer to prohibit the sale of tobacco products on campus.

This policy applies to all employees including faculty, staff, vendors, visitors and members of the President's Cabinet.

Procedure:

Tobacco use is prohibited in all of Rensselaer's facilities and Institute outdoor areas. Organizers of public events on campus are responsible for communicating this policy to attendees.

Responsibilities:

Faculty, staff and students have a joint responsibility to share in the enforcement of this policy. Individuals who observe other individuals smoking in violation of this policy have a right to object and can remind that individual in a professional and courteous manner of the Institute policy.

Violations of this policy should be reported to the Division of Human Resources. Employees will not be disciplined or retaliated against for reporting smoking that violates this policy.

### Enforcement:

Employees that violate this policy or who tamper with “no smoking” signs may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Disciplinary actions may include: verbal counseling and education about the health effects of tobacco use; written warnings; a monetary fine or community service; termination; or other appropriate disciplinary actions in accordance with the Student Handbook of Rights and Responsibilities for students and the Human Resources Policy Guidelines for faculty and staff.

Visitors who violate the Tobacco Use Policy will be informed that Rensselaer is a tobacco-free campus. Visitors who continue to violate the policy following a warning will be escorted off campus.

## **Alcohol Use and Possession**

### Purpose:

To establish standards for alcohol use and possession in Rensselaer facilities and Institute programs and activities.

### Policy:

It is the intent of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and its Alcohol Abuse Prevention Regulations and applicable state and local laws and regulations regarding alcohol use and abuse.

It is the policy of Rensselaer that employees are prohibited from the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing and possession of alcohol and prohibited from on-the-job use of, or impairment from, alcohol, on Institute property, as part of any activity sanctioned or sponsored by the Institute, or while performing in a work-related capacity. Rensselaer will not authorize events where drinking under the legal age, as determined by the States of New York and Connecticut, will be knowingly permitted.

The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages on Rensselaer property, except for officially sanctioned functions or storage locations, is prohibited. In the event that Rensselaer has sanctioned the use of alcohol at an Institute event, employees who choose to consume alcohol must do so responsibly and are expected to conduct themselves properly and professionally at all times with colleagues and/or students.

Lawful off-duty alcohol use, while generally not prohibited by this policy, must not interfere with an employee’s job performance. Any use of alcohol that adversely affects an employee’s job performance or Rensselaer or jeopardizes the safety or property of employees, students or the public is prohibited. Employees are also prohibited from reporting to work under the influence of alcohol.

Any employee who supplies or makes alcohol available to someone under age 21 is in violation of New York State statutes and this Policy.

The failure to comply with this policy will subject employees to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination and/or criminal prosecution.

It is also the policy of Rensselaer to provide, as an employee benefit, an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that is designed to help faculty and staff deal with alcohol and substance abuse and other problems that they and their families might encounter.

This policy applies to all employees, including faculty, staff and members of the President's Cabinet.

Procedure:

Rensselaer has established the following rules governing the use and possession of alcohol:

Alcohol Screening:

Rensselaer may test employees for alcohol as described below:

Post-Accident:

Employees whose acts appear to have caused or contributed to a workplace accident may be required to submit to post-accident testing as part of the investigation. The Division of Human Resources must be contacted immediately in these circumstances. Employees who test positive are subject to corrective or disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Reasonable Suspicion:

Employees may be required to submit to alcohol screening whenever the Institute has a reasonable suspicion that they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol while working. A "reasonable suspicion" must be based upon specific, reliable observation that the department head or supervisor can articulate concerning the appearance, behavior, speech or body odor of the employee. The following observations may indicate drug or alcohol use:

- Unsteady gait,
- Odor of alcohol on the breath,
- Thick or slurring speech,
- Aggressive or abusive language or behavior, and
- Disorientation or lethargy.

Observations leading to reasonable suspicion determinations will be reasonably contemporaneous with the request for a test. The Division of Human Resources MUST BE CONSULTED before making a determination based on "reasonable suspicion." The serving of alcohol at employee-related functions either on or off Rensselaer premises must be reviewed and approved by the Alcohol Review Committee. The committee may be reached through the Student Health Center.

Employees who drive a motor vehicle as a part of their work duties, found to have been driving under the influence of alcohol, whether on duty or off duty, shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Referrals to Rensselaer's Employee Assistance Program for employees who may abuse alcohol are coordinated through the Division of Human Resources to assist both the employee and supervisor, and to assure compliance with all applicable laws.

As part of Rensselaer's program to comply with the federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the Institute has implemented the following additional policies:

#### Criminal Convictions:

All employees are required to notify their manager within five (5) days if they are convicted of a crime involving drugs or alcohol. A conviction means a finding of guilt, including a plea of guilty or no contest, or imposition of sentence, by any judicial body.

If the employee is convicted of a crime involving illegal drugs, Rensselaer will in turn inform the appropriate authorities and take appropriate disciplinary action within 30 days. Although convictions will not automatically lead to discipline, off-duty conduct that violates this policy may have a bearing on an employee's continued suitability for the job.

### **Alcohol Drug Education & Awareness Program**

Rensselaer will periodically provide information to employees on the effects and dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, the resources available to employees through Rensselaer benefits programs and in the community to address substance abuse and dependence, and information about the provisions of, and consequences of, violating this policy.

### **Care and Support Services**

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can also provide educational information on substance abuse upon request. For more information about the EAP Program, see Human Resources Policy #1100.5, *Employee Assistance Services*.

### **BHS**

Call: (800) 327-2251

Text (800) 327-2251 and use one of the following hashtags:

#BEBETTER to connect with a master's level Care Coordinator, or

#WORKLIFE to connect with a Work-Life Resource specialist.

Live Chat available services 24/7:

Visit the MyBHS Portal at [portal.BHSONline.com](http://portal.BHSONline.com). Username is RPI.

App for mobile devices:

Search "BHS APP" in app stores.

### **St. Peter's Addiction Recovery Center (SPARC)**

[www.sphp.com/addiction-sph](http://www.sphp.com/addiction-sph)

Albany, Guilderland, Latham, Saratoga and Schenectady, NY

Non-Profit Organization

Troy, NY 12180

(518) 272-0206

## **SAMHSA's National Helpline**

(800) 662-HELP/(800) 662-4357

SAMHSA's National Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service (in English and Spanish)

## **Al-Anon/Alateen Family Group of the Greater Capital District**

Answering Service: (518) 292-0577

General Information: [info@al-anon-8ny.org](mailto:info@al-anon-8ny.org)

Alateen Information: [alateen@al-anon-8ny.org](mailto:alateen@al-anon-8ny.org)

## **Pinnacle Behavioral Health - Albany**

<https://www.pinnaclebehavioralhealth.com/>

10 McKown Road, Albany, NY 12203

Phone: (518) 689-0244

## **Use and Possession of Illegal Drugs**

### Purpose:

To maintain a safe, healthy, and efficient working, living and learning environment that is free from illegal drugs.

### Definitions:

Illegal Drugs: refers to any drug, the possession or use of which is prohibited under federal, state, and local law, including the controlled substances noted in Schedules I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and defined in regulation 21 C.F.R. 1308.15. The term "illegal drugs" does not mean the use of controlled substances pursuant to valid prescriptions or other uses authorized by law.

Criminal Drug Statute: refers to a Federal or State criminal statute involving the manufacturing, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of any controlled substance.

Conviction: refers to a finding of guilt including a plea of "nolo contendere" or imposition of sentence or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of Federal or State criminal drug statutes.

Workplace: any site where the performance of work for Rensselaer is performed.

### Policy:

It is the policy of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and its Alcohol Abuse Prevention Regulations, the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act and state and local laws and regulations regarding drug abuse and illegal drugs.

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, sale, dispensing, possession, purchase, transfer or use of illegal drugs is prohibited in Rensselaer's working, living and learning environments.<sup>1</sup>

This policy does not prohibit the possession and proper use of lawfully prescribed drugs taken in accordance with the prescription; however, Rensselaer does prohibit the misuse of prescribed medication. Employees' lawful drug use may affect their job performance, such as by causing dizziness or drowsiness. Employees must also take care when taking prescription medication that could impair their ability to safely and responsibly perform job duties. In some such cases, it is recommended employees discuss concerns with Human Resources. It is the employee's responsibility to determine from his/her physician whether a prescribed drug may impair safe job performance and to notify Human Resources of any job restrictions that should be observed as a result.

Employees will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination and/or criminal and/or civil penalties if they manufacture, distribute, sell, attempt to sell, possess, transfer use or purchase illegal drugs, controlled substances or drug paraphernalia while at the workplace or while performing in a work-related capacity. Such illegal acts, even if engaged in off duty, may result in disciplinary action.

The failure to comply with this policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination in accordance with Human Resources Policy 900.1, *Progressive Discipline* and/or criminal prosecution.

It is also the policy of Rensselaer to provide, as an employee benefit, an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that is designed to help faculty and staff deal with substance abuse and other problems that they and their families might encounter.

This policy applies to all employees including faculty, staff, vendors and members of the President's Cabinet.

#### Procedure:

Rensselaer has a strong commitment to safeguard the health and welfare of its faculty, staff, and students, and provide a safe working, living and learning environment. Because substance abuse at work or away from work can seriously endanger the health and safety of faculty, staff, students, vendors and guests, Rensselaer has established a program under this policy to detect and remove users of illegal drugs or controlled substances from the working and learning environment. Rensselaer is committed to preventing the use and/or presence of these substances in the workplace.

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<sup>1</sup> Although the States of New York and Connecticut allow the use of marijuana for recreational and palliative purposes, the Institute remains bound by the federal requirements under the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug Free Workplace Act. As a result, Rensselaer does not permit the possession, use or ingestion of marijuana or any products that include derivatives of marijuana, such as cannabidiol (CBD) oil, in its working, living and learning environments. Rensselaer will take adverse action where the employee is impaired at work due to the use of medical marijuana or if marijuana or marijuana products are brought to work, on-site or in company-provided vehicles. The current New York Department of Health regulations governing cannabis, including the prohibition from using cannabis on college campuses or in college dormitories or residence halls will remain in effect unless modified or abrogated by the New York State Office of Cannabis Management. See 9 NYCRR 113.19.



Responsibilities:

Rensselaer Employees: must comply with this policy; and notify his/her supervisor within five days after any conviction under a criminal drug statute.

Rensselaer Supervisors: must participate in periodic training to assist them in identifying and addressing illegal drug use by employees; and be cognizant of their responsibilities to refer employees who may be using illegal drugs on the job to the Division of Human Resources.

Drug Testing:

Rensselaer may test employees for illegal drug use as described below:

Post-Accident: Employees whose acts appear to have caused or contributed to a workplace accident may be required to submit to post-accident testing as part of the investigation. The Division of Human Resources must be contacted immediately in these circumstances. Employees who test positive are subject to corrective or disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Reasonable Suspicion: Employees may be required to submit to drug testing whenever Rensselaer has a reasonable suspicion that they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol while working. A "reasonable suspicion" must be based upon specific, reliable observation that the department head or supervisor can articulate concerning the appearance, behavior, speech or body odor of the employee. The following observations may indicate drug or alcohol use:

- Unsteady gait,
- Odor of alcohol on the breath,
- Thick or slurring speech,
- Aggressive or abusive language or behavior, and
- Disorientation or lethargy

Observations leading to reasonable suspicion determinations will be reasonably contemporaneous with the request for a test. The Division of Human Resources MUST BE CONSULTED before making a determination based on "reasonable suspicion."

Sanctions and Remedial Measures:

Employees, including faculty, staff, and members of the President's Cabinet, who engage in conduct prohibited by this policy or are convicted under a criminal statute will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination, and/or may be required to satisfactorily participate in Rensselaer's Employee Assistance Program and any recommended rehabilitation program.

Federal penalties and sanctions relating to illegal drug use and possession are set forth in the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, 21 USC Section 841-865. Legal sanctions applicable to New York can be found on the New York State Law website, refer to NYS Penal Law Section 220.00 – 221.55. Legal sanctions applicable to Connecticut are set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Section 21a-267 et seq and CGS § 21a-408 et seq.<sup>2</sup>

#### Confidentiality:

All records relating to alcohol treatment and employee medical information shall be kept confidential and disseminated to and within Rensselaer only on a need-to-know basis. Such records will be kept in secure files separate from personnel files. Test results will not be released outside the Rensselaer without the written consent of the tested individual, or as otherwise may be required or permitted by law or legal process.

As part of Rensselaer's program to comply with the federal Drug-Free Workplace Act, the Institute has implemented the following additional policies:

#### Criminal Convictions:

All employees are required to notify their manager within five (5) days if they are convicted of a crime involving drugs or alcohol. A conviction means a finding of guilt, including a plea of guilty or no contest, or imposition of sentence, by any judicial body.

If the employee is convicted of a crime involving illegal drugs, Rensselaer will in turn inform the appropriate authorities and take appropriate disciplinary action within 30 days. Although convictions will not automatically lead to discipline, off-duty conduct that violates this policy may have a bearing on an employee's continued suitability for the job.

### **Drug Education & Awareness Program**

Rensselaer will periodically provide information to employees on the effects and dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, the resources available to employees through Rensselaer benefits programs and in the community to address substance abuse and dependence, and information about the provisions of, and consequences of, violating this policy.

The Employee Assistance Program can also provide educational information on substance abuse upon request.

### **Care and Support Services**

Referrals to Rensselaer's Employee Assistance Program for employees who may use or abuse illegal drugs or controlled substances are coordinated through the Division of Human Resources to assist both the employee and supervisor, and to assure compliance with all applicable laws.

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<sup>2</sup> Although the State of Connecticut allows the use of marijuana for palliative purposes, the Institute does not permit the possession, use or ingestion of marijuana in its working, living and learning environments.

## **BHS**

Call: (800) 327-2251

Text (800) 327-2251 and use one of the following hashtags:

#BEBETTER to connect with a master's level Care Coordinator, or

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App for mobile devices:

Search "BHS APP" in app stores.