

DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAM

Platt College San Diego

It is the policy of Platt College San Diego to annually remind all students and employees that The College supports the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of the United States Congress and the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. Pursuant to these acts, the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees of Platt College San Diego is strictly prohibited on its property or as part of any of its activities. Use of or being under the influence of intoxicating substances or illegal drugs on campus will cause probation or termination from the school and may result in sanctions consistent with local, State and Federal law.

Federal Legal Sanctions

Pursuant to federal law, the United States Sentencing Guidelines establish mandatory minimum penalties for categories of drug offenses and provide for penalty enhancements in specific cases. Under these federal guidelines, courts can sentence a person for up to 6 years for unlawful possession of a controlled substance, including the distribution of a small amount (less than 250 grams) of marijuana; a sentence of life imprisonment can result from a conviction of possession of a controlled substance that results in death or bodily injury; and, possession of more than 5 grams of cocaine can trigger an intent to distribute penalty of 10-16 years in prison. Following are the federal penalties and sanctions for illegal possession of controlled substances:

21 U.S.C. 844(a)

1st conviction: Up to 1 year imprisonment and fined at least \$1,000 but not more than \$100,000, or both.

After 1 prior drug conviction: At least 15 days in prison, not to exceed 2 years and fined at least \$2,500 but not more than \$250,000, or both.

After 2 or more prior drug convictions: At least 90 days in prison, not to exceed 3 years and fined at least \$5,000 but not more than \$250,000, or both.

21 U.S.C. 853(a)(2) and 881(a)(7)

Forfeiture of personal and real property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance if that offense is punishable by more than 1 year imprisonment. (See special sentencing provisions re: crack, above).

21 U.S.C. 881(a)(4)

Forfeiture of vehicles, boats, aircraft or any other conveyance used to transport or conceal a controlled substance.

21 U.S.C. 844a

Civil fine of up to \$10,000.

21 U.S.C. 862

Denial of Federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses, up to 1 year for first offense, up to 5 years for second and subsequent offenses.

18 U.S.C. 922(g)

Ineligible to purchase, receive or transport a firearm. Miscellaneous Revocation of certain Federal licenses and

benefits, e.g. pilot licenses, public housing tenancy, etc., are vested within the authorities of individual Federal agencies.

Note: A more comprehensive reference to federal penalties and sanctions for illegal possession of controlled substances can be found at the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Diversion Control website at:

<https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/>

Health Risks (National Drug and Alcohol Abuse Helpline:

<http://www.drug-rehabs.org/illegal-drugs.htm>)

The following are some of the health risks associated with some specific drugs:

Heroin: Heroin slows down the functions of the central nervous system. It can produce nausea and vomiting, as well as constipation and itching. At higher doses the skin becomes cold and breathing becomes slower and shallower. Long term use and the associated lifestyle may result in damage to the veins, heart, and lungs. Women may experience irregular menstruation and possibly infertility, while men may experience impotence. Since heroin is usually injected, there is an increased risk for the user of contracting diseases like tetanus, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

Cocaine: Cocaine speeds up the nervous system. It is highly addictive and regular users almost always become addicted. This addiction can cause problems with daily living including lying, stealing, flattened emotions, and problems with relationships. Cocaine is extremely dangerous because taking more of the drug may not increase the sensation, but increases the risk of overdose and negative health effects.

Marijuana: Marijuana is primarily a depressant and may have hallucinogenic effects. The effects of marijuana will vary depending on the individual and the mood they are in. It will also depend on the strength and amount of the drug being used. In combination with other drugs or alcohol, the use of marijuana can produce disturbing feelings of paranoia, hallucinations, and other symptoms of drug-induced psychosis.

Ecstasy: Ecstasy speeds up the functions of the central nervous system. It is often mixed with a variety of different drugs, making it difficult for users to know what they are taking. It is dangerous to take other drugs in combination with ecstasy as little is known about these combinations. Using more than one drug also increases the risks of complications and serious side effects. It can lead to a number of serious physical and psychological problems. Ecstasy can produce a 'hangover' effect with symptoms including loss of appetite, insomnia, depression, or muscular aches. The effects of ecstasy vary from person to person depending on size, mood, gender, health, weight, personality, expectations of the drug, and previous experience with ecstasy.

Meth: Meth is part of a group of drugs known as amphetamines. The effect of meth is that it stimulates the activity of certain chemicals in the user's brain. Meth is often of a very poor quality and a 'dirty' hit can make users sick. Of course, the effects of meth will vary from person to person depending on mood, physical size, personality, gender, the way they use it, quality of the drug and previous history of use.

Alcohol Abuse: Any drinking causes some temporary effects. Continued heavy drinking can result in serious health problems including damage to the central nervous system, the liver, the heart, and the digestive tract. Alcohol also affects the user's behavior in a negative way and can be harmful to unborn babies.

Note: State penalties and sanctions may apply in addition to the Federal legal sanction described above. Additional materials that define the legal status and health risks of certain drugs and information on counseling, treatment and/or rehabilitation programs are available at the front desk of the administration offices in room 204.

The Dean of Education or appropriate administrator if deemed necessary may give direct advisement of students. Such advisement may result in referral to a professional counselor.