

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICIES



BROWN MACKIE COLLEGE
MIAMISM

Alcohol/Drug Possession, Usage, and Distribution Policy

Drug-Free Workplace and College

The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol at Brown Mackie College — Miami or in facilities controlled by the Brown Mackie College — Miami are prohibited by college regulations and are incompatible with the Brown Mackie College — Miami goal of providing a healthy educational environment for students, faculty, staff, and guests. The following information is provided in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989.

Effects of Drugs and Alcohol

Although individuals often use drugs and alcohol to achieve a variety of effects on mind and body that are found to be temporarily useful or pleasurable, drugs can be highly addictive and injurious. A person can pay a price in terms of his or her physical, emotional, and social health.

This price can be paid in a number of ways. The risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, is increased through unwanted or unprotected sex when one is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Drugs can be the trigger for violent crime. Economic and legal problems usually follow directly when one tries to support a drug habit by resorting to crime. The dependence, illness, loss of job, and loss of family or friends that can result from drug or alcohol use and abuse can be tragic.

In keeping with the mission of Education Management Corporation and the requirements of state and federal law, Brown Mackie College — Miami has adopted this program to ensure a drug-free college and workplace and to prevent the use of controlled substances and the abuse of alcohol.

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Alcohol

Short-Term Risks

- Increased risks of accidents and injuries
- Alcohol-related traffic accidents (the leading cause of death for teens)
- Alcohol slows reaction time, decreases muscle coordination, and impairs vision
- Fatal overdose
- Unconsciousness or blackout
- Death by aspiration of vomit
- Nausea
- Gastritis

Long-Term Risks

- Increased blood pressure
- Increased risk of heart attack
- Brain damage resulting in permanent psychosis
- Cancer of the mouth, esophagus, or stomach
- Liver damage (cirrhosis, alcohol hepatitis, cancer)
- Ulcers and gastritis
- Pancreatitis
- Birth defects
- In males, testicular atrophy and breast enlargement
- In females, increased risk of breast cancer
- Prolonged, excessive drinking can shorten life span by 10 to 12 years

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Drugs

Amphetamines (Speed, Uppers)

- Malnutrition
- Hallucinations
- Dependence, psychological, and sometimes physical

Deliriant (Aerosols, Lighter Fluid, Paint Thinner)

- Permanent damage to lungs, brain, liver, bone marrow
- Loss of coordination, confusion, hallucinations
- Overdose causing convulsions, death

Depressants (Barbiturates, Tranquilizers, Methaqualone)

- Confusion, depression, loss of coordination
- Dependence — physical and psychological
- Coma, death (caused by overdose)
- Can be lethal when combined with alcohol

Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, DMT, STP, Mescaline)

- Hallucinations, panic, irrational behaviors (which can lead to increased risk of accidents, injuries)
- Tolerance overdose leading to convulsions, coma, death
- Possible birth defects in children of LSD users

Intravenous Drug Use

- Places one at risk for HIV infection (the virus causing AIDS) when needles are shared

Marijuana and Hashish

- Chronic bronchitis
- Decreased vital capacity
- Increased risk of lung cancer
- In men, lower levels of testosterone and increase in abnormal sperm count

Stimulants (Cocaine)

- Painful nosebleeds and nasal erosion
- Intense “downs” that result in physical and/or emotional discomfort
- Tolerance and physical dependence can develop

Narcotics (Heroin, Morphine, Codeine, Opium)

- Malnutrition
- Hepatitis
- Loss of judgment and self-control leading to increased risk of accidents, injuries
- Dependence
- Overdose leading to convulsions, coma, death

Sanctions

Brown Mackie College — Miami Sanctions

Brown Mackie College — Miami, in all of its actions, seeks to uphold local, state, and federal laws. Insofar as permitted by these laws, the Brown Mackie College — Miami South will apply sanctions that could lead to a student being fined, suspended, or expelled or an employee being disciplined, suspended, or dismissed for violation of the Brown Mackie College — Miami standards of conduct. Students and employees may also be referred for prosecution.

Disciplinary sanctions may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program, at the student's or employee's expense, if necessary.

State and Federal Sanctions

Florida penalties and sanctions for illegal possession of a controlled substance include the following:

Possession of Marijuana (20 grams or less)

1st Degree Misdemeanor

Maximum penalty of 1 year in jail and a \$1000 fine.

Possession of Marijuana (more than 20 grams)

3rd Degree Felony

Maximum penalty of 5 year in jail and a \$5000 fine.

Possession of a Controlled Substance (Heroin, Cocaine, Ecstasy)

3rd Degree Felony

Maximum penalty of 5 years in jail and up to a \$5000 fine.

Possession of More than 10 grams of Heroin

1st Degree Felony

Maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and fines of up to \$10,000.

Possession of an Unlawful Chemical

2nd Degree felony

Maximum penalty of 15 years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

1st Degree Misdemeanor

Maximum penalty of 1 year in jail and a \$1000 fine.

Federal penalties and sanctions for illegal possession of a controlled substance include the following:

First Conviction Up to one year in prison, fine of \$1,000 to \$100,000, or both

Second Conviction At least 15 days and up to two years imprisonment, \$5,000 to \$250,000 fine, or both

After Two Drug Convictions At least 90 days and up to three years in prison, \$5,000 to \$250,000 fine, or both. Special federal sentencing provisions for possession of crack cocaine include a mandatory prison term of at least five years and up to 20 years, fine of up to \$250,000, or both, for a first conviction if the amount of crack exceeds five grams, for a second conviction if amount exceeds three grams, and for a third or subsequent conviction if the amount exceeds one gram.

Additional federal sanctions may also apply including forfeiture of vehicles used to transport controlled substances, denial of federal benefits including student loans, grants, and contracts, and denial or revocation of certain federal licenses and benefits.

Convictions for Drug-Related Offenses

Any student convicted of any drug-related criminal statute must notify the dean of academic affairs, in writing, no later than five (5) days after such conviction regardless of where the offense occurred. This is because under federal and state laws, any student convicted of a drug-related felony offense must be denied all federal and state assistance, including Pell Grants, ACG, Florida Student Assistance grant, and CAP grants. However, a criminal conviction shall not be necessary to find that a student has violated these standards of conduct, and Brown Mackie College — Miami need not, and ordinarily will not, defer its own actions and sanctions pending the outcome of any criminal proceeding.

Danger Signals Indicating a Drug or Alcohol Problem

- Abrupt changes in mood or attitude
- Decreased efficiency at work or at school
- Frequent absences, tardiness, and/or early departures
- Relationship problems with family, friends, and co-workers
- Unusual outbursts of anger and hostility
- Social withdrawal

Advising

If you observe any of these changes in yourself or another student, you are encouraged to talk with faculty or staff member.

Abuse of alcohol or drugs can lead to dependency and addiction, with serious consequences for personal health and overall quality of life. There are drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation facilities available in our area where students and employees may seek advice and treatment. The student advisor staff or a faculty member will refer you to one that meets your needs.

Miami Specific Area Resources

There are also organizations that may be contacted for help.

SAP-The Wellness Corporation: 800-326-6142

Al-Alanon Family Groups

SW 79th Street

Miami, FL 33143

305-663-1432

Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) Groups

1110 Brickell Avenue, Ste 801

Miami, FL

305-371-7784

Betterway of Miami, Inc.

800 NW 28th Street

Miami, Florida 33127

305-634-3409

Concept House, Inc.

162 NE 49th Street

Miami, FL 33137

305-751-6501

Here's Help, Inc.

15100 NW 27th Avenue

Opa Locka, FL 33054

305-685-8201

Spectrum Programs, Inc.

11031 NE 6th Avenue

Miami, FL 3361

305-757-0602

The Village-Partners in Recovery
400 NE 31st Street
Miami, FL 33137
305-573-3784

Call for meeting times and locations.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse Hotline 800-662-4357 is available from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Monday through Friday and from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on weekends.

A list of emergency and sliding-fee scale resources is available from the student advisor.