

# **Statement for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse at Crichton College**

## **1. Behavioral Expectations**

The behavioral expectations of Crichton College for every member of its community include the prohibition of possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on its property (owned OR leased) or as part of its activities.

## **2. Behavioral Review and Actions**

Students at Crichton College who are involved with alcohol and/or drug abuse are subject to review by the campus judicial system. The specific sanctions for failure to comply with this policy may include the following: formal warning developmental contract, disciplinary probation, denial of privilege, satisfactory completion of a drug/alcohol abuse program or rehabilitation program, suspension, and dismissal.

As a condition of continued enrollment, and in agreement with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, students must notify the Vice President of Student Development of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring on campus or at a college function at off-campus locations no later than five days after such a conviction. The Office of Student Development will notify the Department of Safety & Security.

Employees have been briefed that appropriate personnel action will be taken against any employee involved in drug abuse, up to and including termination. It is a condition of employment at Crichton College that employees understand and support the Drug-Free Workplace Requirements at Crichton College. As a further condition of employment, it is a requirement of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 that workplace drug convictions of employees be reported by the employee to his or her employer within five days of the conviction.

A conviction includes a finding of guilt, a plea of nolo contendere, or imposition of sentence by any state, local, or federal judicial body.

## **3. Effects of Drugs and Alcohol**

### Effects of Alcohol

Even the moderate use of alcohol can produce consequences such as impaired physical activity, slowed mental alertness, and dulling of conscience. Heavier drinking increases the inability of an individual for control or judgment. Heavy drinking over long periods of time reduces both the quality and length of life. Lowered resistance to disease and irreversible damage to organs such as the brain, heart, liver, kidneys, and stomach can occur. Beyond the physical problems lies the well-known social destruction that alcohol contributes to in fatal accidents and dysfunctional family living.

### Effects of Other Drugs

The following negative effects possible from the use of illicit drugs are cited to describe the danger involved in drug abuse:

*Cocaine* – dependency, increased blood pressure, seizures, cardio-respiratory collapse, severe mental disorders

*Amphetamines* – temporary psychosis, dependency, heart disorders

*Marijuana* – dependency, loss of coordination, brain lesions, lung tissue damage

*Barbiturates* – addiction, apathy, loss of self-control, convulsions, coma

*LSD* – hallucinations, recurring effects (flashbacks), brain damage, chromosomal breakdown

*Heroin* – lethargy, convulsions, coma, liver problems, mental deterioration if used excessively, the use of alcohol or drugs singly or in certain combinations may cause death.

#### **4. Treatment Support**

Following an on-campus assessment, students and employees will be referred to off-campus agencies for counseling and treatment.

#### **5. State and Federal Penalties for Illicit Drugs and Alcohol**

##### Illicit Alcohol

Although Crichton College policy includes broader behavioral expectations concerning use of alcohol as outlined in the student handbook, Tennessee law states that a person can serve up to 11 months, 29 days in prison, and/or pay a fine of up to \$2,500 for buying, possessing, transporting (unless it is in the course of his or her employment), or consuming alcoholic beverages, wine, or beer if under the age of 21. Furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor carries the same penalty. The offense of public intoxication is punishable by imprisonment of up to 30 days and/or a fine of up to \$50.

##### Illicit Drugs

Various federal, state, and local statutes make it unlawful to manufacture, distribute, dispense, deliver, sell, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, dispense, deliver, or sell, controlled substances. Possible maximum penalties for a first-time violation include imprisonment, a fine of up to \$4,000,000 if an individual, supervised release, any combination of the above, or all three.

These sanctions are doubled when the offense involves either the distribution or possession at or near a school or college campus, or distribution to persons under the age of 21. Repeat offenders may be punished to a greater extent.

Simple possession or “personal use amounts” of certain specified substances carry a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 under federal law. Under state law, the offense of possession or casual exchange is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor. If there is an exchange between a minor and an adult at least two years the minor’s senior, and the adult knew the person was a minor, the offense is classified as a felony.

Under federal law, simple possession of a controlled substance carries a \$5,000 fine, a one-year term of imprisonment, or both, for a first offense. These penalties are doubled for a subsequent offense.

## **6. Enforcement of Liquor Law/Illegal Drug Violations**

Any student found either to be intoxicated, or any student in possession of or under the influence of illegal drugs will be turned over to local law enforcement officers and are subject to criminal charges, and then will be brought up on disciplinary charges with the institution. These charges will result in the implementation of sanctions as listed in the Campus Policies section of the student handbook, located on the Crichton College website at [www.crichton.edu/student\\_life](http://www.crichton.edu/student_life).

## **7. Review of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Statement**

This statement is subject to biennial review by Crichton College in order to implement necessary changes and ensure consistent application.