

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

SOWELA is committed to providing a drug free environment for students, visitors, and employees. SOWELA prohibits unlawful possession, use, or sale of any alcoholic beverage or controlled dangerous substance.

Any person who violates the school policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or enrollment. Violations are subject to referral to the appropriate authorities for prosecution. The revocation of federal licenses and benefits, such as public housing tenancy or pilot licenses, etc., rests with authorities of the individual federal agencies. Students, visitors, and employees are expected to adhere to all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances concerning illicit drug violations. SOWELA will make every effort to keep a copy of the current laws and ordinances on file in the Administration office.

Each new student is provided the following information during the first week of semester via your student email and may be viewed anytime on the school website:

- Policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace and campus.
- Statement that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited on campus property or as part of any of its activities.
- Description of health risks associated with the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol.
- A clear statement that the institution will impose disciplinary sanctions on students (consistent with local, state, and federal law) and a description of those sanctions, up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution when appropriate.

Drug Free Schools and Communities Act

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 (Public Law 101-226) requires the college to remit certification to the Department of Education that has adopted and implemented a program to prevent illicit use of drugs and abuse of alcohol by its students and employees. The program includes:

1. Standards of conduct concerning the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of drugs; and the illegal use of alcohol by students and employees on college property or at any college activity
2. A description of the legal sanctions for violating the law
3. A clear statement of the college's sanctions issued for the commission of these types of violations
4. A description of any drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation services offered at SOWELA
5. A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and abuse of alcohol.

The information below complies with the requirements of the act.

Statement of Purpose

Alcohol abuse is a major issue in the community and on college campuses. Use of alcohol or drugs can lead to physical abuse, date rape, auto accidents, violence, health issues and other self-destructive behaviors.

SOWELA Technical Community College complies with state, federal, and local laws pertaining to alcohol and enforces underage drinking laws. SOWELA policy prohibits the consumption, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and disciplines individuals under the influence of any controlled substance while on college property or participating in college-sponsored trips or activities. The use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs or being under the influence of a controlled substance is strictly prohibited on college property or while participating in college-sponsored events.

College Sanctions

Disciplinary actions are taken for the commission of violations pertaining to the SOWELA drug policy by any student, faculty, or staff. Depending on the nature of the offense, disciplinary action takes the form of a written reprimand, a suspension, a demotion, a reduction in pay, or termination of affiliation with SOWELA. Disciplinary actions for students are issued in accordance to school policies. Examples of sanctions include warnings, probation, exclusion, restitution, suspension of privileges, community service, termination of employment and/or expulsion/suspension from the college.

Legal Sanctions

It is unlawful in Louisiana to produce, manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess illegal drugs. The most common illegal drugs on college campuses are marijuana, opium derivatives, hallucinogens, depressants, cocaine, cocaine derivatives, and amphetamines. The Criminal Code of Louisiana carries specific penalties for the possession and use of illegal drugs. It is also unlawful in Louisiana for anyone under 21 years of age to purchase/possess alcoholic beverages for any reason or anywhere open to the public.

Controlled Dangerous Substances SCH I- SCH IV (R.S. 40:981.3)

It is unlawful to possess, sell, distribute, or manufacture drugs listed in the statute. The drugs include, but are not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, "crack" cocaine, methamphetamines, heroine, "rush" LSD, "ruthies," and prescription drugs without having obtained a prescription from a licensed physician. Persons found guilty of one of these drug violations are subject to a fine of not less than \$500, may be imprisoned at hard labor for up to 30 years or; if found selling illegal drugs on campus, can be imprisoned at hard labor for up to 45 years.

Effects of Alcohol and Drug Use

Alcohol consumption causes marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgement and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses also increase the incidence of various aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses cause marked impairments and higher mental functions, severely altering one's ability to learn and remember information.

Very high doses causes respiratory depression and death. Combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol produce the same effects. Repeated use of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life-threatening.

Long-term alcohol consumption in large quantities, particularly if combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the liver and brain. Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome, irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. Research shows that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than others of becoming alcoholics.

Marijuana usage negatively affects physical and mental processes; it can produce paranoia, impair short-term memory and comprehension, and alter one's sense of time. Research indicates marijuana smoke contains more cancer causing agents than tobacco smoke.

Cocaine stimulates the central nervous system; produces psychological and physical dependence; crack is very addictive. Effects include dilated pupils, increased pulse and elevated blood pressure, loss of appetite, hallucinations, paranoia, and seizures. Use of cocaine can cause death by cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

For more details on other substances, please see SOWELA website Counseling Resources.

TOLL FREE INFORMATION

Substance Abuse Helpline:

1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Narcotics Anonymous (Lake Charles):

(337)439-5753

Lake Charles Office of Behavioral Health:

(337)475-8022

Calcasieu Parish Sherriff's Office:

Non-emergency: (337)491-3600

Emergency: 911

National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency:

1-800-NCA-CALL (622-2255) for referrals to local treatment facilities.

Commonly Abused Drugs and Health Risks

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/commonly-abused-drugs/commonly-abused-drugs-chart>.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Lockers and desks are the property of SOWELA. As the property of the school, they are subject to search for any contraband at any time, upon the reasonable belief of the Chancellor that the lockers and/or desks may contain material which is not allowed on the school campus. Bringing a tool box or book bags and operating a motor vehicle on campus are privileges to students. The granting of these privileges is conditional upon the consent of the students to a search by the school administration of tool boxes, book bags and/or motor vehicles to determine if they contain material which is not allowed on the school campus.

This search and seizure policy applies to materials such as weapons, illegal substances or drugs, alcoholic beverages, and other similar material. Local law enforcement authorities may be included in this process if the Chancellor determines a need for such involvement.

TOBACCO USE/SMOKING

Tobacco Free Campus

To the extent permitted by State law, all faculty, staff, students, visitors, vendors, contractors, and all others are prohibited from using any tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, electronic cigarettes, etc.) while on the property of SOWELA Technical Community College.

The use of tobacco products is prohibited at all times as follows:

1. In all interior space on SOWELA Technical Community College's main campus and all satellite locations;
2. On all outside property or grounds of SOWELA Technical Community College campus;
3. In all SOWELA Technical Community College vehicles;
4. In all indoor and outdoor athletic facilities;

All tobacco industry promotions, advertising, marketing, and distribution in any format are prohibited on campus properties and for campus activities as well as direct funding from tobacco companies for such programs.

The sampling and/or sale of tobacco products and tobacco related merchandise (including logo containing items) is prohibited on all college property and at college and student organization/group sponsored events, regardless of the operating vendor.

Organizers and attendees at campus events such as, but not limited to, conferences, meetings, lectures, social events, cultural events, etc. using SOWELA Technical Community College facilities will be required to abide by the tobacco free policy and procedures. Offices responsible for reserving facilities shall be responsible for informing organizers of events. Organizers of such events are responsible for communicating the policy to attendees and for enforcing this policy.

Littering the campus with the remains of tobacco products or any other disposable product is prohibited.

Penalties for violations to the policy are:

a. **Students**

1st offense-Verbal warning and reminder that SOWELA is a tobacco-free campus.

2nd offense-\$30 ticket or 3 hours of campus service

3rd offense-Student is required to meet with the Student Grievance Committee for violation and additional disciplinary sanctions.

b. **Faculty/Staff**

Any faculty or staff members who violate the Tobacco-Free Campus policy will be referred to their immediate supervisor for penalties. SOWELA Technical Community College employees who violate this policy will be informed that they may be asked to leave the premises.

c. **Non-SOWELA Technical Community College Employees**

Visitors, vendors, contractors, and others not specifically employed by SOWELA Technical Community College will be reported to the department or school responsible for their presence on campus. In circumstances, where departmental or school leadership is unable to remedy the situation, then the SOWELA Technical Community College Facilities/Security Department will be contacted for assistance. Non-SOWELA Technical Community College employees who violate this policy will be informed that they may be asked to leave the premises. Vendors and contractors may be subject to action, up to and including, the legal termination of a contract.