STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Section 5.2 of Chapter VI of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents, Texas State University System, provides for disciplinary action against any student who engages in conduct prohibited by law and for illegal use and for unauthorized use of intoxicating beverages, and illegal use of drugs and drug paraphernalia, or any other controlled substance.

Section 5.9 of Chapter VI of the regents; rules provides that a student who has been found guilty of the illegal possession, use, sale, or distribution of any drug, narcotic, or controlled substance, whether those infractions are found to have occurred on or off campus, but not exceeding a period of not less than the remainder of the semester in which the infraction occurred plus the following long term.

If the semester in which the infraction has ended by the time a student is found guilty, the student shall be suspended for a period of not less than the remainder of the semester plus the following long term.

The student conduct code prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance in all university workplaces.

HEALTH RISKS OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Alcohol: Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely. Low to moderate doses of alcohol increase speech, parasympathetic nervous system (parasympathetic nervous system) and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, and increased and decreased arousal. This is why alcohol is hazardous to drive.

Anabolic steroids are a group of powerful compounds closely related to the male sex hormone testosterone. Steroid users subject themselves to more than 70 side effects ranging in severity from liver cancer to acne and including psychological changes as well as physical reactions. The liver and the cardiovascular and reproductive systems are most seriously affected by steroid use. In males, use can cause wistful testes, sterility, and impotence. In females, irreversible masculine traits can develop along with breast reduction and sterility. Psychological effects include very aggressive behavior and depression. While some side effects appear quickly, others, such as heart attacks and strokes, may not show up for years.

Hallucinogens: Lysergic acid (LSD), mescaline, and psilocybin cause illusions and hallucinations. The physical effects may include dilated pupils, elevated body temperature, increased heart rate and blood pressure, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, and tremors. Sensations and feelings may change rapidly. It is common to have bad psychological reactions to LSD, mescaline, and psilocybin. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, and loss of control. Delayed effects or flashbacks can occur even after use has ceased. Users of PCP report persistent memory problems and speech difficulties. Some of these effects may last 6 months to a year following prolonged daily use. Mood disorders (depression, anxiety, and violent behavior) also occur. In later stages of chronic use, users often exhibit paranoid and violent behavior. Large doses may produce convulsions and coma, as well as heart and lung failure.

Depressants: The effects of depressants are in many ways similar to the effects of alcohol. Small and large doses produce changes in mood and depression. In regular users, the result is a tolerance to the drug, leading the user to increase the quantity consumed. When regular users suddenly stop taking large doses, they may develop withdrawal symptoms ranging from restlessness, insomnia, and anxiety to convulsions and death.

Narcotics: Narcotics initially produce a feeling of euphoria that often follows by drowsiness, nausea, and vomiting. Users may experience constipated pupils, watery eyes, and itching. An overdose may produce slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death. Tolerance to narcotics develops rapidly and is dependent. The use of contaminate syringe may increase the risk of such diseases as AIDs, endocarditis, and hepatitis. Addition in pregnant women can lead to premature, stillborn, or addicted infants who experience severe withdrawal symptoms.

Tobacco (Nicotine): The smoking of tobacco products is the chief avoidable cause of death in our society. Smoking is more likely than non-smokers to contract heart disease. Some 30 percent of cancer deaths (130,000 per year) are linked to smoking. Chronic obstructive lung diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis are 10 times more likely to occur among smokers than among non-smokers. Smoking during pregnancy poses serious risks such as spontaneous abortion, prematurity, low birth weight, and fetal and infant deaths. Perhaps the most dangerous substance in tobacco smoke is nicotine. Because nicotine is highly addictive, addicts find it very difficult to stop smoking. Of 1.000 typical smokers, fewer than 25 percent stop in the first try.

Cocaine: Cocaine is a stimulant drug. Chronic use of cocaine can cause death by cardiac arrest or respiratory failure. Its immediate effects include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate and body temperature. Occasional use can cause a stuffy or runny nose, while chronic use can alter the mucous membrane of the nose. Injecting cocaine with contaminated equipment can cause the risk of AIDS. Other diseases include the use of depressants can cause both physical and psychological dependence. Regular use over time may result in a tolerance to the drug, leading the user to increase the quantity consumed. When regular users suddenly stop taking large doses, they may develop withdrawal symptoms ranging from restlessness, insomnia, and anxiety to convulsions and death.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY PENALTIES

Students: The student conduct code will impose a minimum disciplinary penalty of suspension for a period of time specified in the regents rules and the Student Conduct Code, for conduct related to the unlawful manufacture, possession, or distribution of drugs prohibited by state, federal, or local law. Other penalties that may be imposed for conduct related to the unlawful use, possession, or distribution of drugs or alcohol include, but are not limited to, loss of employment, loss of job, loss of on-campus employment, loss of scholarship, and loss of financial aid. In addition, the university has the right to impose additional penalties such as loss of university privileges, suspension for a specified period of time, expulsion, or such other penalty as may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

Employees: The unlawful use, possession, or distribution of drugs or alcohol will result in a disciplinary penalty of warning or reprimand, suspension, reduction in pay, demotion, or discharge depending upon the circumstances.

COUNSELING/TREATMENT

Employees experiencing a problem with alcohol or other drugs may seek counseling/ referrals through the Employee Assistance Plan. Information is available in the Human Resource office. Students experiencing a drug or alcohol problem who are currently enrolled at Lamar University may seek confidential counseling/reerrals through the Student Health Center.

PENALTIES UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS/PENALTIES UNDER TEXAS LAW

Drug-Free Schools and Communities

INFORMATION ALL STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW

Penalties for Drug Use or Possession

PENALTIES UNDER FEDERAL LAW

PENALTIES UNDER STATE LAWS/PENALTIES UNDER TEXAS LAW

Offense - Minimum/Maximum Punishment

Max:
Imprisonment for not more than 15 years, and a fine not to exceed $250,000.

Min:
Confinement in jail for a term of not more than 180 days, and a fine not to exceed $50,000.

PENALTIES UNDER FEDERAL LAW

PENALTIES UNDER TEXAS LAW

Max:
Conviction of a violation of the controlled substance act by a person under 21 years of age

Min:
Confinement in jail for a term of not more than 180 days, and a fine not to exceed $50,000.

Max:
Conviction in TDC for life for a term of not more than 20 years or not less than 5 years, and a fine not to exceed $100,000.

Max:
Conviction in TDC for life for a term of not more than 20 years or not less than 5 years, and a fine not to exceed $1,000,000.

Max:
Conviction in TDC for life for a term of not more than 20 years or not less than 5 years, and a fine not to exceed $10,000,000.
EDUCATIONAL RECORDS AND STUDENT RIGHTS

The following information concerning student records maintained by Lamar University is published in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) as amended (PL93-380).

Access to educational records directly related to a student will be granted to him or her unless the type of record is exempt from the provision of the law.

The types, locations and names of custodians of educational records maintained by the University are available from the Registrar.

Access to records by persons other than the student will be limited to those persons and agencies specified in the statute. Records will be maintained of persons granted such access and the legitimate interest in each case.

The release of information to the public without the consent of the student will be limited to the categories of information which have been designated by the University as directory information. The student may request this information be withheld from the public by making written request to the Records Office. Directory information includes name, all addresses (including e-mail addresses), all telephone numbers, major field of study, academic classification, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, enrollment status, degrees and awards received, last educational agency or institution attended, photographs, and class rosters.

A student has the right to challenge records and information directly related to him or her if it is considered to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise inappropriate. Issues may be resolved either through an informal hearing with the official immediately responsible or by requesting a formal hearing. The procedure to be followed in a formal hearing is available in the Records Office.

A student has the right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office concerning alleged failures by Lamar University to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

Lamar University may release personally identifiable information to school officials. School officials include faculty, staff, or student workers who have a legitimate educational interest in gaining access to a student's education record. Contracted individuals who are not employees of the Institution, but who provide a service that the institution normally would perform itself, may also be classified as school officials.

FERPA ANNUAL NOTICE ADDENDUM

As of January 3, 2012, the U.S. Department of Education’s FERPA regulations expand the circumstances under which your education records and personally identifiable information (PII) contained in such records — including your Social Security Number, grades, or other private information — may be accessed without your consent. First, the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or state and local education authorities (“Federal and State Authorities”) may allow access to your records and PII without your consent to any third party designated by a Federal or State Authority or evaluate a federal- or state-supported education program. The evaluation may relate to any program that is “principally engaged in the provision of education,” such as early childhood education and job training, as well as any program that is administered by an education agency or institution. Second, federal and state authorities may allow access to your education records and PII without your consent to researchers performing certain types of studies, in certain cases even when we object to or do not request such research. Federal and State Authorities must obtain certain use-restriction and data security promises from the entities that they authorize to receive your PII, but the Authorities need not maintain direct control over such entities. In addition, in connection with Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, State Authorities may collect, compile, permanently retain, and share without your consent PII from your education records, and they may track your participation in education and other programs by linking such PII to other personal information about you that they obtain from other Federal or State data sources, including workforce development, unemployment insurance, child welfare, juvenile justice, military service, and migrant student records systems.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON IMMUNIZATION TO ALL APPLICANTS OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

MEASLES
(aka. Rubeola, Red Measles, Hard Measles, 10-day Measles)

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease for which antibiotics are not effective. It has been responsible for many hospitalizations and several deaths among the college-aged population. The measles vaccine is usually given in combination with vaccines for mumps and rubella (MMR). It is strongly recommended that students of Institutions of Higher Education receive two doses of the vaccine prior to beginning classes. Many young adults have received only one dose.

TETANUS
(aka. Lockjaw)

The illness caused by tetanus results from the poison produced by a bacteria. Again, this is a very difficult illness to treat once it occurs and prevention is the most appropriate choice. The vaccine is effective for about 10 years and needs to be boosted at that interval. It is now common for older adults to develop Tetanus in the United States as many adults do not receive the recommended 10 year boosters. The Tetanus vaccine should be given in combination with the diphtheria vaccine.

POLIOMYELITIS

In the United States, polio immunization is not routinely recommended for persons 18 years of age or older. However, if travel to other parts of the world is planned, a physician should be contacted for specific recommendations.

Immunization is an integral part of your health care. This part is called PREVENTION. It means that you must do something before you become ill to stay healthy! Don’t be part of the PROBLEM, be part of the SOLUTION. Make sure that your immunizations are current NOW!

For more information on immunizations, contact your physician, public health clinic, or:

Lamar University Health Center
P. O. Box 10015
Beaumont, TX 77710
Phone: 409-880-8466

Health students must contact their advisor for specific information.

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS VACCINATION REQUIREMENT

Texas Senate Bill 62 requires that all new students under age 22 who attend on-campus classes at an institution of higher learning either receive a vaccination against bacterial meningitis or meet certain criteria for declining such a vaccination before the first day of the semester. The requirement also applies to returning students under age 22 who were not enrolled in the previous long semester. Please go to http://beacardinal.lamar.edu/bacterial-meningitis for more information.

HAZING

The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action against individual students and/or groups who are involved in hazing activities. Such disciplinary action may be taken independent of state and local prosecutorial actions regardless of the outcome of such prosecutorial actions. Hazing on the part of students, faculty or staff is strictly forbidden, whether on or off campus. The state law providing penal sanctions in the event of a conviction of hazing is set forth in sections 4.51–4.58, Texas Education Code. Full policy is available in the student affairs office in 115 Wimberly Building.

Member of The Texas State University System

Lamar University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action educational institution and employer. Students, faculty, and staff members are selected without regard to their race, color, creed, sex, age, handicap or national origin, consistent with the Assurance of Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Executive Order 11246 as issued and amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.