

South Georgia Technical College 2020-2022 Biennial Review

Drug Free Schools & Communities Act of 1989

In accordance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, South Georgia Technical College provides the following information to promote a campus environment free of illicit drug use and alcohol abuse, and to prevent the abuse of alcohol and drugs by students and employees.

O.C.G.A. § 20-1-20

GEORGIA CODE

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*** Current Through the 2014 Regular Session ***

TITLE 20. EDUCATION

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 2. DRUG-FREE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

O.C.G.A. § 20-1-20 (2014)

§ 20-1-20. Short title

SGTC has partnered with EverFi (2020-2021) and then GetInclusive (2022), whose mission is to help students address critical life skills such as alcohol abuse prevention and sexual assault prevention in high schools and higher education institutions across the country. Each year over one-half million students complete these courses. As part of our comprehensive prevention efforts for new students, SGTC expects students to complete EverFi (2020-2021) and then GetInclusive (2022), during their first semester of enrollment. These online courses are thoughtful and educational programs for adults committed to thinking about their life choices. New students are provided course completion information at the beginning of each semester. More information about GetInclusive visit www.getinclusive.com

South Georgia Technical College believes that illegal drugs and abuse of alcohol have no place in the college environment. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance or alcohol is strictly prohibited in all facilities of the college, in all places where employees/students work/attend, including all state-owned vehicles, and as any part of the college's activities. As a condition of employment/enrollment, all employees/students shall abide by this prohibition and notify the college of any criminal drug or alcohol use. Violation of such prohibition shall result in action against the employee/student, which shall include action up to and including termination/expulsion, and/or satisfactory participation in an approved drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program. Participation in such a program shall not be paid for by the college, but may be covered by an employee's/student's health insurance policy.

No student may engage in the unlawful manufacture, possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on the South Georgia Technical College's property or as part of any of its sponsored activities. Such unlawful activity may be considered sufficient grounds for serious punitive action, including expulsion. Disciplinary sanctions for students convicted of a felony

offense involving alcohol or the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession or use of marijuana, controlled substances or other illegal or dangerous drugs shall be immediate suspension and denial of further state and/or federal funds from the date of conviction. Specifically, in the case of a drug related offense the student shall minimally be suspended for the remainder of the semester and forfeit all academic credit for that period.

Disciplinary Sanctions imposed by Student Code of Conduct

South Georgia Technical College will impose sanctions on students that violate institutional policy on unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by: (1) Temporary or permanent dismissal and (2) Referral for prosecution. Note: Use of a drug as prescribed by a medical prescription written specifically for the user by a registered medical practitioner shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

SGTC shall notify the appropriate state/federal funding agency within 10 days after receiving notice of the conviction from the student or otherwise after receiving the actual notice of conviction. Within 30 days of notification of conviction, the Technical College shall with respect to any student so convicted:

1. Take additional appropriate action against such student up to and including expulsion as it deems necessary.
2. Provide such student with a description of any drug or alcohol counseling treatment, or rehabilitation or re-entry programs that are available for such purposes by a federal, state or local health, law enforcement or other appropriate agency.

In compliance with the Technical System of Georgia (TCSG) State Board Policy, South Georgia Technical College has established and maintains a system of student discipline that is fair and efficient and carries out the TCSG policies which can be found at www.tcsg.org. South Georgia Technical College recognizes its responsibility to provide an atmosphere conducive to educational activity and adheres to the SGTC Student Code of Conduct policy and procedure.

Criminal Sanctions

Under Georgia and federal law, it is a crime to possess, manufacture, sell, or distribute illegal drugs. As required by federal regulations, charts at the current Safe and Secure Web site detail federal penalties for drug trafficking and state sanctions for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs.

Federal sanctions for the illegal possession of drugs include imprisonment up to 1 year and/or a minimum fine of \$1,000 for a first conviction; imprisonment for 15 days to 2 years and a minimum fine of \$2,500 for a second drug conviction; and imprisonment for 90 days to 3 years and a minimum fine of \$5000 for a third or subsequent drug conviction. For possession of a mixture or substance which contains a cocaine base, federal sanctions include 5 to 20 years in prison and a minimum fine of \$1000 for a first conviction if the mixture or substance exceeds 5 grams, for a second conviction if the mixture or substance exceeds 3 grams, and for a third or subsequent conviction if the mixture or substance exceeds 1 gram. Additional possible penalties

for the illegal possession of drugs are forfeiture of real or personal property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance if the offense is punishable by more than 1 year imprisonment; forfeiture of vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other conveyance used, or intended for use, to transport or conceal drugs; civil fine up to \$10,000 per violation; denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses for up to 1 year for the first and up to 5 years for a second or subsequent offense; successful completion of a drug treatment program; community service; and ineligibility to receive or purchase a firearm.

Georgia law prohibits the purchase or possession of alcohol by a person under the age of 21, or the furnishing of alcohol to such a person. Driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs also is illegal. It is against Georgia law, under certain circumstances, to walk and be upon a roadway while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The punishment for these offenses may include imprisonment, payment of fine, mandatory treatment and education programs, community service, and mandatory loss of one's driver's license.

The use, possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensing, and trafficking of illegal drugs is prohibited by federal law. Strict penalties are provided for drug convictions, including mandatory prison terms for many offenses. The following information, although not complete, is an overview of potential federal statutory maximum penalties. However, precise federal sentencing is governed by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Please note that sentencing under these guidelines can result in penalties that are more severe than the federal statutory maximums and which are more severe than the penalties imposed under state law under certain circumstances.

A federal drug conviction may result in the denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses, up to one year for first offense, up to five years for second and subsequent offenses [21 U.S.C. sec. 853].

Moreover, any person convicted of a federal drug offense punishable by more than one year in prison will forfeit personal and real property related to the violation, including homes, vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other personal belongings [21 U.S.C. sec. 853(a)(2), 881(a)(7) and 881(a)(4)]. Further, persons convicted on federal drug trafficking within 1,000 feet of South Georgia Technical College may face penalties of prison terms and fines that are twice as high as regular penalties for the offense, with a mandatory prison sentence of at least one year [921 U.S.C. sec. 845(a)].

Health Risks Associated with the Use of Illicit Drugs and the Abuse of Alcohol

The use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol can, and in many instances, will lead to serious health problems, chemical dependency, deterioration of the quality of life, and, if untreated, early death.

- Cocaine provides a short-lived “high” followed by depression, paranoia, anxiety, guilt, anger, and fear. It can cause rapid physical and psychological addiction. In some instances, cocaine may cause a heart attack or sudden death, even on the first use. The dangers of this highly addictive drug and its close derivative, “crack”, are evidenced daily

through the news media. Overdose of cocaine (or other stimulants) can cause agitation, increase in body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, and possible death.

- Marijuana, like cocaine, provides a short-term high, and like cocaine, is addictive. While the “high” may last only a short time, traces remain in the body for a month or more, inhibiting short-term memory, reducing reaction time and impairing visual tracking. It may also cause an inability to abstract and understand concepts. In some instances, it can depress the immune system, increase the risk of heart attack, contribute to lung diseases, and infertility. Marijuana and other cannabis can cause euphoria, relaxed inhibitions, increased appetite, and disoriented behavior. Overdose can cause fatigue, paranoia, and possible death.
- Depressants such as barbiturates, chloral hydrate, benzodiazepines, etc., can cause slurred speech, disorientation, and drunken behavior without the odor of alcohol. Overdose can cause shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma, and possible death.
- Hallucinogens such as LSD, Mescaline, and Peyote amphetamine variants, etc., can cause illusions and hallucinations, and poor perception of time and distance. Overdose can cause longer, more intense illusionary hallucinatory episodes, psychosis, and possible death.
- Narcotics such as opium, heroin, morphine, and codeine can cause euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, and nausea. Overdose of narcotics can cause slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death.
- Prescription drugs, used improperly, can cause tiredness, or hyperactivity, impaired reflexes, brain damage, and, in some instances, addiction or death.
- Alcohol, used abusively, will impair judgment, result in anxiety, feelings of guilt, depression, and isolation. Prolonged use may cause liver and heart disease, cancer, and psychological problems and dependency in the form of alcoholism. Alcohol used by pregnant women is the leading preventable cause of mental retardation in children.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education Programs

A variety of counseling services and treatment centers are available throughout the state for anyone experiencing problems related to substance abuse. Although most counseling and treatment centers charge for their services, some programs are free of charge.

Faculty, staff, and students should avail themselves of sources to identify the services or programs which most closely meet their specific needs.

The following agencies can be contacted for assistance with drug/alcohol abuse related issues:

National and State-wide Organizations

- Alcoholics Anonymous * <http://www.aa.org>
- Narcotics Anonymous * <http://www.na.org> * 800-342-3487
- Al-Anon for Families of Alcoholics * <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org> * 888-425-2666
- Alcohol Treatment Referral Hotline * 800-662-4357
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment * 800-662-4357

- Cocaine Anonymous * 800-662-4357
- Georgia Drug Abuse Treatment Programs * <http://drugabuse.com/usa/drug-abuse/georgia/>
- Georgia Crisis and Access Line * <http://drugabuse.com/usa/drug-abuse/georgia/>
- 24 Hour Addiction Helpline * 866-569-7077
- Georgia Helpline * 800-338-6745
- NARCANON of Georgia * 877-413-3043
- Addiction Center * <https://www.addictioncenter.com/college/> * 877-655-5116

Local Resources

- Southern Star Community Services (Americus) * 229-931-2470
- Addiction Rehab Centers:
 - Anchorage Inc. (Leesburg) * 229-435-5692
 - Albany Addition Associates DBA Private Clinic Albany (Albany) * 229-903-0022
 - Graceway Recovery Residence Inc. (Albany) * 229-446-7800
 - Phoenix Center Behavioral Health Services (Fort Valley) * 478-825-6499
- Grapevine Rehab of Americus (Americus) * 229-223-4330
- Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare – Phoenix House (Americus) * 229-815-5454 (Cordele) * 229-276-2367
- The Anchorage Inc. (Leesburg) * 229-435-5692