

## **Volunteer State Community College Drug Free Campus Statement**

Volunteer State Community College is committed to the enforcement of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (20 USC 3171, et. seq.) and strictly prohibits the use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages, any drug or controlled substance or sale or distribution of any such controlled substance on its campuses. The following information is being provided to each student enrolled at the College to bring about awareness of current information available as it relates to the use, penalties and health risks of illicit drugs and alcohol. All students are required to be knowledgeable of the information provided and comply with any applicable provisions outlined below.

### *Legal Sanctions Under Local, State, and Federal Law:*

Various federal, state and local statutes make it unlawful to manufacture, distribute, dispense, deliver or sell, controlled substances. The penalty imposed depends upon many factors, which include the type and amount of controlled substance involved, the number of prior offenses, if any, whether death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of such substance, and whether any other crimes were committed in connection with the use of the controlled substance. Possible maximum penalties for a first-time violation include imprisonment for any period of time up to a term of life 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; 1) distribution or possession at or near a school or college campus, or 2) distribution to persons under 21 years of age. Repeat offenders may be punished to a greater extent as provided by statute. Further, a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 may be assessed for simple possession of "personal use amounts" of certain specified substances under federal law. For additional information on Federal Trafficking penalties go to <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/agency/penalties.htm>. 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 (2) years the minor's senior, and the adult knew that the person was a minor, the offense is classified a felony as provided in TCA 39-17-417 (21 USC S801, et seq; TCA 39-17-417).

It is unlawful for any person under the age of twenty-one (21) to buy, possess, transport (unless in the course of his employment), or consume alcoholic beverages, wine, or beer. Such offenses being classified Class A misdemeanors are punishable by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, 29 days, or a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both (TCA 1-3-113, 57-5-301). It is further an offense to provide alcoholic beverages to any person under the age of twenty-one (21), such offense being classified a Class A misdemeanor (TCA 39-15-404). The offense of public intoxication is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more than 30 days or a fine of not more than \$50, or both (TCA 39-17-310).

### *Health Risks Associated with Use of Illicit Drugs and/or Abuse of Alcohol*

Every drug, including alcohol, is a potential poison, which may cause disability and death if it is taken incorrectly into the body, consumed in wrong amounts or mixed indiscriminately with other drugs. Drugs cause physical and emotional dependence. Drugs and their harmful side effects can remain in the body long after use has stopped. The extent to which a drug is retained in the body depends on the drug's chemical composition that is whether or not it is fat-soluble. Fat-soluble drugs such as marijuana, phencyclidine (PCP), and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) seek out and settle in the fatty tissues. As a result, they build up in the fatty parts of the body such as the brain and reproductive system. Such accumulation of drugs and their slow release over time may cause delayed effects weeks, months and even years after drug use has stopped.

There are many health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol including organ damage; impairment of brain activity, digestion, and circulation; impairment of psychological processes and mental functioning; and, physical and psychological dependence. Such use during pregnancy may cause spontaneous abortion, various birth defects or fetal alcohol syndrome.

Additionally, the illicit use of drugs increases the risk of contracting hepatitis, AIDS and other infections. If used excessively, the use of alcohol or drugs singly or in certain combinations may cause death. Additional information on the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs or abuse of alcohol can be found at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/Alcohol/quickstats/general\\_info.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/Alcohol/quickstats/general_info.htm) and  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/concern/concern.htm>.

### *Penalties and Sanctions*

Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in all cases in which students are determined to be in violation of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 as implemented by Volunteer State Community College.

Students: Any alleged violation of the Act as implemented by the College by a student of the College shall be reported to the Chief of Campus Police and/or the Vice President for Student Services. The circumstances surrounding the offense and the facts as determined by appropriate investigation will be fully reviewed prior to a decision on the action to be taken. Possible disciplinary sanctions for failure to comply with the provisions of this Act may include one or a combination of the following:

1. Probation
2. Mandatory participation in, and satisfactory completion of a drug/alcohol abuse program, or rehabilitation program
3. Suspension
4. Referral for prosecution
5. Expulsion
6. Warning
7. Reprimand

8. Other appropriate disciplinary action

*Questions Regarding the Use of Illicit Drugs and/or the Abuse of Alcohol*

If you have any questions regarding the use of illicit drugs and/or the abuse of alcohol or desire additional information, please contact the Chief of Campus Police at 615-230-3595.