

UNIVERSITY SANCTIONS

The University of Southern Mississippi will impose disciplinary sanctions consistent with local, state, and federal laws on students and employees.

SANCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

University students who violate articles of the rules will be subject to disciplinary actions that range from probation with educational sanctions through suspension and expulsion. Students accused of violating these policies and rules are afforded full due process under the University Code of Student Conduct. The University reserves the right to assign disciplinary sanctions based on the particular circumstances of each individual case. The range of sanctions is as follows:

(1) Disciplinary probation – Probation makes the offense a part of the student's permanent disciplinary record and places that student under formal warning. Should a further offense occur while the student is serving a disciplinary probation, the subsequent punishment will be swift and more severe and likely include suspension or expulsion. Disciplinary probation allows a student to continue in school but may include other sanctions, including, but not restricted to, the following: loss of Housing visitation privileges; transfer to another residence hall; eviction from campus housing; and counseling.

(2) Suspension – Suspension removes the student's right to attend the University for some period of time. Suspension can be immediate or projected in the future, and it may be for a fixed period of time (ex., 2 years, one semester, etc.) or an indefinite period of time with the right to appeal and show cause for reinstatement at a fixed date. Suspension removes the student from the campus, relinquishing all "in progress" academic

work. The disciplinary suspension becomes a permanent part of the student's record. The University can require that students accomplish certain things prior to reinstatement. These may include completing addiction treatment, receiving psychological services, or fulfilling other nonpunitive requirements.

(3) Expulsion – Expulsion is the most severe sanction a university can render. Expulsion is immediate and permanent separation from the University with no rights to future reinstatement.

(4) Parental Notification Policy – The Dean of Students Office reserves the right to notify the parents of students under the age of 21 who violate alcohol and other drug provisions of the student code of conduct, and/or who in our professional judgement are considered to be a danger to themselves or others. Upon receipt of an alcohol or other drug violation by a student under the age of 21, the dean of students will staff the case and make a decision regarding parental notification based on the particular circumstances of the offense and the student's history. Parents will be notified by letter or phone, depending on the circumstances of the case.

SANCTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES

Sanctions against Southern Miss employees range from a letter of reprimand to termination of employment. The University may refer for prosecution to the appropriate officials. The University may impose multiple sanctions.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

Students needing assistance with alcohol or drug problems are encouraged to utilize the services provided through the University Health Services (601-266-5390), located in the Southern Miss Clinic, as well as the Counseling Center (601-266-4829) located in Room 200 of Kennard-Washington Hall.

In addition to offering direct services to students, the centers provide referral services to a number of resources both on and off campus.

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to seek assistance should the need arise. Some of the agencies available are as follows: Pine Belt Programs for Chemical Dependency (601-264-2111), the Life Focus Center and Pine Grove Recovery Center of Forrest General Hospital (601-288-4900), Behavioral Healthcare Center at Wesley Medical Center (601-268-8645). Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Adult Children of Alcoholics meet in the Hattiesburg community. For further information, call the Human Resources office at 601-266-4050.

HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ALCOHOL USE

Alcoholic beverages in the form of beer, wine, wine coolers, or distilled spirits require no digestion and are absorbed directly into the bloodstream from the digestive tract. Within approximately three minutes after drinking, alcohol may be found in the brain and other tissues, organs, and body fluids. Alcohol depresses the central nervous system. Even at low levels, alcohol impairs vision, judgement, and complex motor skills and behaviors, making driving dangerous. Not only are persons under the influence of alcohol less able to perform the many complex tasks involved in safe driving, they cannot judge their own levels of impairment. Because alcohol decreases inhibitions, users often do things they normally would not do.

Long-term drinking of moderate to large quantities of alcohol can cause liver damage. Heavy drinking can cause serious nervous mental disorders, including permanent brain damage. Ulcers, gastritis, pancreatitis, diabetes, high blood pressure, malnutrition, and some cancers are also more common among chronic heavy drinkers than among the general population. Users may also experience periods of amnesia called blackouts.

AL-ANON
1 (800) 356-9996
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
(601) 582-8663
COCAINE HOT LINE
1 (800) COCAINE

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ALCOHOL & DRUG INFORMATION
1 (800) SAY NO TO
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG DEPENDENCY HOT LINE
1 (800) 622-2255

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS
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During these periods, the person functions but later cannot remember what he or she has done during this time. Dependence on alcohol can occur after many years of heavy drinking or, for some individuals, soon after the first drink. Dependent persons may experience withdrawal symptoms including craving alcohol, anxiety, weakness, tremors, and perspiration. More severe withdrawal symptoms include nausea, vomiting, seizures, convulsions, hallucinations, and delirium tremors. Severe alcohol withdrawal is life-threatening.

Mothers who drink during pregnancy may give birth to infants with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or other alcohol-related birth defects. Drinking by the mother during pregnancy places the unborn child at risk, affecting the child's development. Conditions seen in FAS children include (1) mental retardation; (2) a pattern of abnormal facial and body features; and (3) central nervous system abnormalities. Not all infants born to women who drink exhibit abnormal development. "Safe" levels of alcohol use during pregnancy have not been established, and it is currently recommended that pregnant women abstain.



PREVENTING ALCOHOL and OTHER DRUG ABUSE

OFFICIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

The University of Southern Mississippi prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on The University of Southern Mississippi property or as part of any of its activities.

