OHSU alcohol and drug guide: A resource for employees and students
HSU is built on a foundation of integrity and commitment to our values. Yes, we abide by numerous laws, regulations, policies and professional standards. But we seek to go beyond that, to hold ourselves to a higher standard.

This becomes clear with our institutional commitment to creating and maintaining a drug- and alcohol-free environment. This guide outlines OHSU's policies on drug and alcohol use, sanctions for violating federal, state and OHSU policies and the health risks associated with alcohol and drug use.

But this guide is more than that, serving as a reminder of our expectations around the behavior and conduct of our employees, faculty, students and volunteers. First and foremost, coming to work or school under the influence of a substance is unacceptable. Period. In addition to the legal and ethical implications of substance possession or use, being under the influence puts others at risk. That is in direct opposition to our values of respecting this institution and each other.

This guide also provides a number of resources for you, your colleagues, friends and family who may be struggling with drug or alcohol dependency or abuse. If you're concerned about someone, we encourage you to reach out, report a concern, share resources or seek support yourself.
Standards of Conduct

OHSU is based on a culture of ethics, integrity, transparency and safety. That includes a commitment to maintaining a drug-free institution. The OHSU Code of Conduct outlines expectations and responsibilities. All members of the OHSU community — employees, students and volunteers — have to behave in accordance with these principles.

The Code of Conduct states:

We perform our duties and protect others in the OHSU community by using sound safety practices, including coming to OHSU free from the influence of alcohol or any illegal drugs. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispersal, possession or use of illicit drugs by university students or employees in the workplace is prohibited.

OHSU-wide policies

The OHSU Policy Manual contains alcohol and drug related policies for employees and students. The primary policy that applies to all OHSU members is as follows:

Serving of Alcohol
Policy No. 07-90-025

General rule | No use without approval

No alcohol shall be served or consumed (1) on OHSU owned or controlled property, whether at an OHSU sponsored event or not, or (2) at an OHSU sponsored event, held on premises not owned or controlled by OHSU, unless approved by the division or department head (or equivalent) and responsible Unit Leader of the sponsoring group. An event held on premises not owned or controlled by OHSU shall not be considered an OHSU sponsored event if no institutional funds or resources are used and attendance is not required by OHSU management.

Requirements

Except for events at the President’s residence or events approved by the Provost, no event shall be approved under section 1(A) for use of alcohol, unless: (1) It is sponsored by a unit or division of OHSU or by an organization or group which is recognized and associated with OHSU through its programs of education, research, patient care or community service; and (2) The sponsoring group abides by and observes the OHSU Alcohol Use Risk Control Plan described below, which Plan shall automatically apply to any event approved under Section 1(A); and (3) Applicable Oregon Liquor Control Commission permits or licenses have been procured or will be procured prior to the final approval of the event. (a) Events at which attendees are required to pay for alcohol, either directly or indirectly (e.g., there is a charge for the event which helps cover beverage costs) will require the sponsoring organization to obtain a license from the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. One day or special event licenses are available. (b) Events for which there is no charge, either directly or indirectly, for beverages will not require the sponsoring organization to obtain a license from the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.
Alcohol Use Risk Control Plan

Where alcohol is to be served, the following rules and guidelines must be observed:

• No alcohol may be served to or by anyone not of legal drinking age.

• No alcohol may be served to anyone who is visibly intoxicated or any OHSU employee who the server knows, or has reason to believe, has not completed their normal work schedule.

• Non-alcoholic beverages and food must be available throughout the event.

• All servers (vendors or others) who will be serving alcohol at the approved event must, prior to serving, be aware of and agree to abide by all requirements of the alcohol use risk control plan and other applicable OHSU policies.

• Alternative transportation options must be available for anyone who has been served alcohol. Sponsors shall see that information about such options is made available to attendees at the event.

• The amount of time at which alcohol will be available should be limited to a reasonable time frame and should cease at least 30 minutes prior to the conclusion of the event. Unless a meal, or the equivalent of a meal, is provided, serving should be restricted to ninety (90) minutes.

• OHSU employees attending OHSU sponsored functions shall not consume alcohol unless they have fully completed their normal work schedule (see Policy No. 03-30-095, prohibition on being under the influence).

• OHSU employees shall not act as servers at an event.

• Alcohol shall be served by an approved vendor chosen from a list of approved vendors maintained by Protocol and Events or by a commercial hosting facility licensed to serve alcohol when the event is held at such facility.

• Sponsors must ensure that all applicable rules, laws, and other requirements, such as liquor licensing requirements, are met.

Public Safety personnel

For events on OHSU-owned or controlled property, the sponsoring group shall complete an electronic notification on the Protocol and Events intranet page at least five (5) business days prior to the event. If the Director of Public Safety determines that Public Safety personnel need to be on site or available, the sponsoring group shall be responsible to pay the cost of providing Public Safety personnel for the event.

Payment for alcohol

• Except as the Provost or OHSU policy provides otherwise (see Policy No. 06-60-010), institutional funds may not be expended to purchase alcoholic beverages.

Sanctions

As is true for violations of OHSU policies generally, failure to follow these policies may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Further, failure to abide by these requirements may result in confiscation of the misused substance or other penalties, including personal liability for the employee involved for any fines, litigation or other costs involved as a result of such failure.
Drug and Alcohol Use
Policy No. 03-30-095

Prohibitions
No person shall be under the influence of any unlawful drug, any alcohol, or misused prescription drug while in the workplace, while on duty, or while operating a vehicle or equipment owned or leased by OHSU. An unlawful drug is any drug that is illegal under federal, state or local law. Employees suspected of being under the influence in violation of this prohibition may be required to submit to a drug or alcohol test in accordance with Policy No. 03-10-015.

No person shall unlawfully use, possess, sell, manufacture, distribute or dispense alcoholic beverages or drugs on property owned or controlled by OHSU.

Sanctions
Employees who violate this prohibition will be disciplined in accordance with applicable bargaining agreements and applicable University procedures. Actions include, but are not limited to, required participation in a substance abuse assistance or rehabilitation program, oral or written reprimand, suspension or termination and/or referral of the matter for prosecution.

Reporting of convictions
Employees must notify their supervisor, and by phone or in writing to the Vice President for Human Resources, of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace or in the course of their job duties within five days of the conviction. Additionally, any OHSU member shall report to the Director of Public Safety any criminal conviction (except a traffic offense) within 15 days of the conviction. Further, the University is required by law to notify the appropriate government agency of such a conviction within ten days of receiving the conviction notice.

Drug and Alcohol Testing (Employees)
Policy No. 03-10-015

Drug and alcohol free workplace
To promote the health, safety and productivity of employees, and the health and safety of the individuals we serve, it is the policy of OHSU to provide a drug and alcohol free workplace. To support this goal, OHSU has established a testing program consisting of pre-employment testing of applicants for employment in specified positions and “reasonable suspicion” testing of employees who are suspected of being impaired by drug or alcohol use while at work. An unlawful drug is any drug that is illegal under federal, state or local law.
Reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing

Any employee may be required to submit to a drug or alcohol test if there is reasonable suspicion the employee is under the influence of drugs or alcohol while at work. Reasonable suspicion testing of classified employees is governed by the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Behavior and physical signs indicating substance abuse may include but not be limited to:

- Observed impairment of job performance;
- Abnormal conduct or erratic behavior;
- A serious workplace accident or number of minor workplace accidents;
- Evidence of drug tampering in the employee’s workplace; or
- Abnormal physical conditions including but not limited to bloodshot eyes, slurred speech, lethargy or drowsiness, lack of coordination and odor of alcohol on breath.

Requirements

- If an employee’s behavior and/or physical condition cause reasonable suspicion of substance abuse, a supervisor shall contact the department head and request that a drug or alcohol screen be performed. The department head may require the employee to submit to drug testing for reasonable suspicion. The suspicious behavior and/or physical condition shall be documented and placed in the employee’s personnel file.
- The employee to be screened shall be relieved of their duties, and arrangements shall be made for testing and for transportation home as appropriate, following the test. Refusal to submit to the test or failure to report to the testing site is cause for disciplinary action.

Marijuana legalization in Oregon

In 2014, Oregon Measure 91 legalized the recreational use of marijuana. OHSU’s practices did not change as a result of the measure. As a recipient of federal funds, OHSU is required to comply with federal laws and regulations regarding marijuana possession and use, including the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

OHSU’s Drug and Alcohol Use policy continues to prohibit being under the influence or in possession of any unlawful drug, misused prescription drug or any alcohol while in the workplace, while on duty, or while operating a vehicle or equipment owned or leased by OHSU. The policy has been updated to clarify that “an unlawful drug is any drug that is illegal under federal, state or local law.”

OHSU’s Drug and Alcohol Testing policy also provides for pre-employment testing of applicants for specified positions and reasonable suspicion testing of employees who are suspected of being under the influence of unlawful drugs or alcohol while at work. The drug test panel for both pre-employment and for-cause testing includes THC, which remains illegal under federal law. This policy was also updated to clarify that “an unlawful drug is any drug that is illegal under federal, state or local law.”

Employees with a professional license should keep in mind that many professional licensing boards have their own requirements regarding drug and alcohol use.
Proscribed Conduct Generally

No student shall engage in conduct proscribed by an applicable school or program or by the University or its Board of Directors, including but not limited to the OHSU Code of Conduct. Engaging in proscribed conduct shall subject a student to sanctions ranging from oral or written reprimand to dismissal, according to written procedures administered by the student’s school or program.

Suspension or Dismissal

A sanction of suspension or dismissal shall be imposed only after a hearing on the matter conducted in accordance with school policies and procedures and advice from the OHSU Legal Department.

If a school or program has reasonable grounds to believe that a student presents a serious and imminent threat to other persons or themselves, the school or program may immediately suspend the student and provide a hearing as soon as reasonably possible.

Specific Proscribed Conduct

Without limiting the generality of the above, the following conduct is proscribed by the University:

Conviction of a felony, a class A misdemeanor or of a crime involving moral turpitude (which shall include, but not be limited to, sex or drug related crimes) while attending the University or prior thereto if the conviction was not disclosed (if the application process required disclosure) in applying to the University for admittance;

Reporting Proscribed Conduct

School or program officials must report to Public Safety whenever a student is either arrested or referred for disciplinary action for:

- Liquor Law Violations
- Drug Law Violations
- Illegal Weapons Possession

Student Drug and Alcohol Testing

Policy No. 02-01-003

To promote the health, safety and productivity of students and clients in their care, OHSU has established a drug testing program consisting of pre-clinical experience testing of students and “for cause” testing for any student suspected of being under the influence of unlawful drugs or alcohol during their course of study.
"For Cause" Drug and Alcohol Testing

Suspicious Behavior and Physical Conditions

Behavior and physical signs indicating substance abuse may include but not be limited to:

1. Observable phenomena, such as direct observation of drug use or possession and/or the physical symptoms of being under the influence of a drug or alcohol;
2. Abnormal conduct or erratic behavior;
3. A serious accident or number of minor accidents during any clinical experience in which the student participates;
4. Evidence of student involvement with drug tampering or evidence that the student tampered with a previous drug test;
5. Information provided by reliable and credible sources regarding the student's violation of this policy; or
6. Abnormal physical conditions including but not limited to

A failed test may result in expulsion from the academic program in accordance with School policies or OHSU Policy 02-30-010 Conduct Relating to Students-Proscribed Conduct* or other actions, including referral to an appropriate treatment program.

*Proscribed Conduct: No student shall engage in conduct proscribed by an applicable school or program or by the University or its Board of Directors, including but not limited to the OHSU Code of Conduct. Engaging in proscribed conduct shall subject a student to sanctions ranging from oral or written reprimand to dismissal, according to written procedures administered by the student's school or program. Proscribed conduct related to alcohol and drug use:

• Illegal use, possession, manufacture, diversion, sale, dispensation, or distribution of drugs or controlled substances, including being under the influence or impaired, on institutionally owned or controlled property (absence of criminal penalties is not considered express authorization);
• Inciting others to engage in any of the conduct or to perform any of the acts prohibited herein. Inciting means that advocacy of proscribed conduct that calls on the person or persons addressed for imminent action and, coupled with a reasonable apprehension of imminent danger to the functions and purposes of the University, including the safety of persons, and the protection of its property;
OHSU sanctions

In addition to any penalties under federal and state law, employees or students found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary sanctions consistent with applicable provisions of state and federal laws, regulations and policies (including Oregon State Board of Higher Education administrative rules, the Oregon Health & Science University Code of Conduct, applicable collective bargaining agreements and applicable university policies).

If imposed, sanctions will include appropriate action up to and including expulsion and/or termination of employment and referral for prosecution and may require participation in an approved drug and/or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

State of Oregon sanctions

Alcohol

Minor in possession: Any attempt to purchase by a person under 21 years is a violation (up to $250 fine). A minor is not in violation of, and immune from prosecution for, minor in possession if the person contacted emergency medical services or a law enforcement agency in order to obtain medical assistance for another person who was in need of medical assistance due to alcohol consumption and the evidence of the violation of this section was obtained as a result of the person's having contacted emergency medical services or a law enforcement agency; or the person was in need of medical assistance due to alcohol consumption and the evidence of the violation of this section was obtained as a result of the person’s having sought or obtained the medical assistance.

Providing liquor to a minor: Class A misdemeanor (up to one year in jail and a fine, plus restitution and community service) Mandatory minimums: First conviction: $350; second conviction: $1,000; third or subsequent conviction: $1,000 and 30 days.

Driving under the Influence of Intoxicants: Driving a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicants is a class A misdemeanor with a penalty of up to one year in jail and a $10,000 fine and suspension or revocation of driving privileges. For purposes of Motorist Implied Consent Laws, a person under 21 years of age with any amount of alcohol in the blood constitutes being under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Illicit drugs

In Oregon, penalties for possession and distribution are determined by the controlled substance schedule upon which the drug appears. Examples from the drug schedules appear below. (Note: Most drugs appear on the same federal and state schedule.)

Schedule I: Heroin, LSD, marijuana (federal law) peyote, mescaline, psilocybin, methamphetamine (Oregon law)
Schedule II: Opium, cocaine, methamphetamine (federal law), marijuana
(Oregon law)

Schedule III: Amphetamine, depressants, PCP

Schedule IV: Various prescription drugs

Schedule V: Other less dangerous prescription drugs and small amounts of
certain drugs

**Marijuana**

*Unlawful Delivery to minor by adult 21*: Class C felony (up to 5 years in prison and
up to $125,000 fine plus twice the value of any resulting gain of property or money).

*Unlawful Delivery/Manufacture within 1000’ of a school (above no consideration
homemade delivery allowance)*: Class A felony (up to 20 years in prison and up to
$375,000 fine plus twice the value of any resulting gain of property or money).

*Unlawful Delivery (above no consideration homemade delivery allowance)*: Class
A misdemeanor (up to 1 year in jail and up to $6,500 fine plus twice the value of
any resulting gain of property or money).

*Unlawful Delivery not for consideration (non-homemade less than one ounce
leaves, stems and flowers)*: Class A violation (up to $2,000 fine).

*Unlawful Delivery not for consideration (non-homemade less than five grams
leaves, stems and flowers)*: Violation (Presumptive fine $650).

*Unlawful Manufacture Adult (4+ plants)*: Class B misdemeanor (up to 6 months in
jail and up to $2,500 fine)

*Unlawful Manufacture Adult (8+ plants, 16+ ounces solid product, 72+ ounces liquid
product, extract)*: Class C felony (up to 5 years in prison and up to $125,000 fine).

*Unlawful Manufacture under 21 years old*: Class C felony (up to 5 years in prison
and up to $125,000 fine).

*Unlawful Possession under 21 years old (one ounce or less leaves, stems and
flowers)*: Violation (Presumptive fine $650)

*Unlawful Possession under 21 years old (1+ ounce to 8 ounces leaves, stems and
flowers, less than 16 ounces solid product, less than 72 ounces liquid product)*:
Class B misdemeanor (up to 6 months in jail and up to $2,500 fine).

*Unlawful Possession under 21 years old (8+ ounces leaves, stems and flowers, 16-
ounces solid product, 72+ ounces of liquid product)*: Class A misdemeanor (up to 1
year in jail and up to $6,500 fine).

*Unlawful Possession adult (1+ ounce in public, 8+ ounces leaves, stems and flowers,
16+ ounces solid product, 72+ ounces liquid product, 1+ ounce extract)*: Up to 2x
allowable amount - Violation (fine up to $1000), 2x up to 4x allowable amount -
Class B misdemeanor (up to 6 months in jail and up to $2,500 fine), 4x+ allowable
amount - Class A misdemeanor (up to 1 year in jail and up to $6,500 fine).
Schedule I drugs

*Manufacture or distribution (except marijuana):* Class A felony (up to 20 years in prison and up to $375,000 fine plus twice the value of any resulting gain of property or money).

*Unlawful possession:* Class B felony (up to 10 years in prison and up to $250,000 fine).

Schedule II drugs

*Manufacture or distribution:* Class B felony (up to 10 years in prison and up to $250,000 fine plus twice the value of any resulting gain of property or money).

*Unlawful possession:* Class C felony (up to 5 years in prison and up to $125,000 fine).

Schedule III drugs

*Manufacture or distribution:* Class C felony (up to five years in prison and up to $125,000 fine plus twice the value of any resulting gain of property or money).

*Unlawful possession:* Class A misdemeanor (up to one year in jail and up to $6,500 fine).

Schedule IV drugs

*Manufacture or distribution:* Class B misdemeanor (up to six months in jail and up to $2,500 fine plus twice the value of any resulting gain of property or money).

*Unlawful possession:* Class C misdemeanor (up to 30 days in jail and up to $1,250 fine).

Schedule V drugs

*Manufacture or distribution:* Class C misdemeanor (30 days jail and up to $1,250 fine plus twice the value of any resulting gain of property or money).

*Unlawful possession:* Violation ($250 fine).

It is unlawful for a person to manufacture or deliver a schedule I, II, or III controlled substance within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a public or private elementary, vocational or secondary school attended by minors (Class A felony, penalty of up to 20 years in prison and $375,000 fine).

In addition, the court may order the defendant to pay the cost of prosecution, and the defendant’s vehicle used in the crime may be forfeited to the state. Finally, the defendant may forfeit any property used in the crime to the county in which the crime occurred.
Federal sanctions

The federal system establishes sanctions for possession and distribution of controlled substances based on the schedule of the drug and the amount involved. The statutory sanctions for possession and distribution are also subject to the “Sentencing Guidelines for U.S. Courts,” though imposition of the guidelines may lead to higher offense levels and, thus, stricter penalties than otherwise indicated. Courts must make adjustments in the offense level for victim-related considerations, the defendant's role in the offense, multiple counts, obstruction and acceptance of responsibility. Finally, the guidelines establish sentences for each offense based on the defendant's criminal history. The range of federal penal sanctions is: thirty years to life in prison (regardless of the defendant's criminal history) for the manufacture, distribution or trafficking of large amounts of heroin, cocaine, PCP, methamphetamine, Schedule I and II hallucinogens, marijuana, hashish, or any of their derivatives; zero to four months in prison for possession of any Schedule III or IV drug if defendant has lowest level of criminal history. Further, if serious injury or death results from the crime, minimums of up to 10 years in prison (serious injury) and 20 years in prison (death), plus fines of up to $4 million may be added. These penalties may be doubled for defendants with past felony drug convictions. Finally, penal sanctions in the federal system are “real time,” with reductions in sentences only for good behavior.
There are numerous health risks associated with alcohol abuse and illicit drug use. The substances covered in this guide include:

- Tobacco and nicotine
- Alcohol
- Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, hashish oil, tetrahydrocannabinol)
- Inhalants (nitrous oxide, amyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, chlorohydrocarbons, hydrocarbons)
- Cocaine (crack)
- Stimulants (amphetamines, methamphetamines, crank, ice)
- Depressants (barbiturates, methaqualone, tranquilizers)
- Hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, mescaline, peyote, psilocybin)
- Narcotics (heroin, methadone, codeine, morphine, meperidine, opium)
- Designer drugs (analogs of fentanyl, analogs of meperidine, MDMA, ecstasy, analogs of PCP)
- Anabolic steroids

**Tobacco and nicotine**

Smokers are more likely than nonsmokers to contract heart disease. Lung, larynx, esophageal, bladder, pancreatic, and kidney cancers also strike smokers at increased rates. Thirty percent of cancer deaths 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 nonsmokers. Smoking during pregnancy also poses risks, such as spontaneous abortion, pre-term birth, and low birth weights. Fetal and infant deaths are more likely to occur when the pregnant woman is a smoker. Nicotine is both psychologically and physically addictive.

**Alcohol**

Low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination needed to operate vehicles. Small amounts can also lower inhibitions. Moderate to high doses cause marked impairments in higher mental functions and loss of memory and the ability to learn and remember information. High doses cause respiratory depression and death. Long-term consumption, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to dependence and permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects just described. Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation.

**Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, hashish oil, tetrahydrocannabinol)**

Physical effects of cannabis include increased heart rate, bloodshot eyes, dry mouth and throat, and increased appetite. Use of cannabis may impair or reduce short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, reduce ability to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination, and impair driving ability. Motivation and cognition may be altered, making the acquisition of new information difficult. Marijuana, hashish, THC, etc., can also produce paranoia and psychosis. Long-term use may result in possible lung damage, reduced sperm count and sperm motility and may affect ovulation cycles. Cannabis can also be psychologically addictive. Chronic use of marijuana by males can
reduce the levels of testosterone. Marijuana freely crosses the placenta, leaving the developing brain susceptible to marijuana substances. Even greater risk is associated with the concomitant use of other fetotoxic drugs. During pregnancy the use of marijuana should be avoided.

Inhalants (nitrous oxide, amyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, chlorohydrocarbons, hydrocarbons)

Immediate effects of inhalants include nausea, sneezing, coughing, nosebleeds, fatigue, lack of coordination, and loss of appetite. Solvents and aerosol sprays also decrease the heart and respiratory rates and impair judgment. Amyl and butyl nitrite cause rapid pulse, headaches, and involuntary passing of urine and feces. Long-term use may result in hepatitis or brain damage. Deeply inhaling vapors, or using large amounts over a short time, may result in disorientation, violent behavior, unconsciousness, or death. High concentrations of inhalants can cause suffocation by displacing oxygen in lungs. Long term use can cause weight loss, fatigue, electrolyte imbalance, muscle fatigue, and permanent damage to the nervous system.

Cocaine (crack)

Cocaine stimulates the central nervous system. Its immediate effects include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature. Occasional use can cause nasal irritation; chronic use can ulcerate the mucous membrane of the nose. Crack or freebase rock is extremely addictive. Physical effects include dilated pupils, increased pulse rate, elevated blood pressure, and insomnia, loss of appetite, tactile hallucinations, paranoia, and seizures. The use of cocaine can cause death by cardiac arrest or respiratory failure. During pregnancy cocaine is fetotoxic. It causes indirect effects by its actions on the mother's blood vessels and direct effects by crossing the placental barrier. Because of the wide spectrum of both kinds of effects on the unborn, the syndrome is not as well defined as the fetal alcohol syndrome.

Stimulants (amphetamines, methamphetamines, crank, ice)

Stimulants cause increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils, and decreased appetite. Users may experience sweating, headache, blurred vision, dizziness, sleeplessness, and anxiety. Extremely high doses can cause rapid or irregular heartbeat, tremors, loss of coordination, and physical collapse. Amphetamine injection creates a sudden increase in blood pressure that can result in stroke, very high fever, or heart failure. In addition to physical effects, feelings of restlessness, anxiety, and moodiness can result. Use of large amounts over a long period of time can cause amphetamine psychosis that includes hallucinations, delusions, and paranoia. The use of amphetamines can cause physical and psychological dependence. Infants born to women abusing methamphetamine show lower birth weights, slower growth, cognitive deficits, behavioral maladjustment, and increased risk of intracerebral hemorrhage. Its use during pregnancy is not recommended.

Depressants (barbiturates, methaqualone, tranquilizers)

Small amounts can produce calmness and relaxed muscles, but somewhat larger doses can cause slurred speech, staggering gait, and altered perception. Large doses can cause respiratory depression, coma, and death. Combination of
depressants and alcohol can multiply effects of the drugs, thereby multiplying risks. Babies born to mothers who abuse depressants during pregnancy may be physically dependent on the drugs and show withdrawal symptoms shortly after birth. Birth defects and behavioral problems may also result. The use of depressants can cause both physical and psychological dependence.

Hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, mescaline, peyote, psilocybin)

Phencyclidine (PCP) interrupts the functions of the neocortex, the section of the brain that controls intellect and instinct. PCP blocks pain receptors, and users can have violent PCP episodes resulting in self-inflicted injuries. Lysereic acid diethylamide (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. These drugs and the designer drugs below are sometimes classified as psychedelic drugs for useful classification of effects on perception, cognition, and mood. Because of indirect effects on the fetus and potential impairment of judgment of the mother, these drugs should not be taken during pregnancy.

Narcotics (heroin, methadone, codeine, morphine, meperidine, opium)

Narcotics initially produce a feeling of euphoria that often is followed by drowsiness, nausea, and vomiting. Users may experience constricted pupils, watery eyes and itching. Overdoses may produce respiratory depression, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and death. Addiction in pregnant women can lead to premature, stillborn, or addicted infants who experience severe withdrawal symptoms. Use of narcotics can cause physical and psychological dependence.

Designer drugs (analogs of fentanyl, analogs of meperidine, MDMA, ecstasy, analogs of PCP)

Many “designer drugs” are related to amphetamines and depressants and have stimulant and depressant properties. Use can produce severe neurochemical damage to the brain. Narcotic analogs can cause symptoms such as those seen in Parkinson’s disease: uncontrollable tremors, drooling, impaired speech, paralysis, and irreversible brain damage. Analogs of amphetamines and methamphetamines cause nausea, blurred vision, chills or sweating, and faintness. Psychological effects include anxiety, depression, and paranoia. Analogs of PCP cause illusions, hallucinations, and impaired perception.

Anabolic steroids

Steroid users subject themselves to more than 70 side effects, ranging in severity from acne to liver cancer, including psychological as well as physical reactions. The liver and cardiovascular and reproductive systems are most seriously affected by use. In males, use can cause withered testicles, sterility, and impotence. In females, irreversible masculine traits can develop along with breast reduction and sterility. Psychological effects in both sexes include very aggressive behavior, known as “roid rage” and depression. While some side effects appear quickly, others, such as heart attacks and strokes, may not show up for years.
Alcohol abuse support and recovery

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are an effective means for many individuals to achieve and maintain sobriety. They have the advantage of being free and easily accessible. There are dozens of meetings held every day throughout Portland and in communities across the state.

For meeting locations and a comprehensive calendar of AA meetings in the Portland Metro area, visit www.pdxaa.org.

There are more than 900 AA group meetings in the state of Oregon. Visit www.aa-oregon.org for meetings by district and access to resources.

Al-Anon offers support for friends and family of problem drinkers. Attendance at meetings is confidential and anonymous. Meetings are free and easily accessible.

In Oregon: www.oregonal-anon.org

In Portland: www.al-anonportlandoregon.org

Other substance abuse programs

There are scores of substance abuse programs in the Portland area and across Oregon. To look into available programs, visit www.oregon.gov, and select Health & Family in the top navigation bar. Click on Addictions & Mental Health and/or Prevention & Wellness. These pages offer information on addiction treatment and prevention services, educational materials and other resources for those struggling with substance abuse and their loved ones.

Residential and outpatient treatment programs


The Newberg location is a residential campus providing tailored treatment to meet each individual’s unique needs. Clinicians may recommend primary care or, to address more complex situations, extended care to address special issues including mental health complications, relapse prevention, and sober living skills.

Hazelden Springbrook Campus
1901 Esther St.
Newberg, OR 97132
1-866-831-5700

The Beaverton location is an outpatient clinic that offers chemical dependency, mental health and pain management services.

Hazelden Addiction Treatment Center
6600 S.W. 105th Ave., Suite 120
Beaverton, OR 97008
503-644-7300
OHSU employee resources

Through the Employee Assistance Program, provides benefit-eligible employees and their dependents 24/7 access to confidential counseling to help address issues such as relationships, drug and alcohol abuse, financial hardship, and general stress or depression.

The EAP is available 24/7 by calling 1-800-826-9231.

Faculty who are concerned about students who may be affected by alcohol or drug use are encouraged to consult with a director at the Joseph B. Trainer Health and Wellness Center by calling 503-494-8665.

OHSU student resources

Any OHSU student, postdoctoral fellow and their adult dependents who have personal concerns about the use or abuse of alcohol may contact the Joseph B. Trainer Health and Wellness Center for confidential consultations, assessments, educational materials, and referrals for treatment. Visit JBT Health and Wellness Center on the web at www.ohsu.edu/jbt-health or call 503-494-8665.

About this guide

Oregon Health & Science University is committed to maintaining a drug-free workplace and educational environment. The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act requires by law the annual distribution of the information contained on these pages to each student and employee. Additionally, Part 86 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations requires that OHSU distribute the following, as it relates to illicit drugs and alcohol:

- Standards of conduct for students and employees
- Disciplinary sanctions for students and employees in violation of policy
- Description of federal and state based legal sanctions
- Description of health risks associated with alcohol abuse and illicit drug use
- Description of drug and alcohol resources available to employees or students