Responding to Students’ Alcohol and Drug Abuse
A Guide for Faculty

Student Life Committee of the Faculty Senate
Division of Student Affairs

This brochure is meant to assist faculty when one of their students exhibits signs of alcohol or drug abuse.
About this brochure

This guide has been jointly developed for faculty by the Division of Student Affairs and the Student Life Committee of the Faculty Senate. It is meant to assist faculty when one of their students exhibits signs of alcohol or drug abuse.

A Serious Problem:

- Research at Fordham and across the country has demonstrated a link between substance abuse and academic failure among college students.
- 13 percent of students who reported consuming alcohol three or more times per week also reported having a GPA of a C+ or lower, compared to only 4 percent of students who reported not using alcohol.
- 31 percent of students at Rose Hill and 25 percent of students at Lincoln Center acknowledged having missed a class due to alcohol or other drug use (Core Survey 2011).
- 27 percent of students at Rose Hill and 18 percent of students at Lincoln Center admitted to have performed poorly on a test or important project due to alcohol or other drug use (Core Survey 2011).
- Faculty and administrators are of tremendous assistance not only in referring students for help in this area, but in creating a campus culture where substance abuse is less frequent.

Identifying Alcohol/Drug Abuse Does Not Mean Getting the Student into Trouble

Fordham wants most of all for students to feel comfortable calling for help in an emergency. To assist with this, the Medical Amnesty Policy has been in place for many years. This policy assures students or friends who call for help that they will not be “in trouble” for consuming alcohol or other drugs the first time something like this happens. Students who call for assistance are immediately aided by Fordham EMS and Security. Once they return to campus, instead of referral to the student discipline process, they simply meet with the dean of students or Residential Life staff member to discuss the incident and receive a referral to the Alcohol and Other Drug Education Program (Lincoln Center campus) or Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Student Support (Rose Hill campus). Repeat problems are addressed with progressively more intensive assistance.
What to do in an EMERGENCY

An alcohol or drug emergency is a situation in which you believe that a student’s possible use of alcohol or other substance may put that student or others at risk for harm or injury.

If you are with the student, DO NOT leave the student alone or let him/her leave. Contact us immediately.

Contact the dean of students (during business hours), the security supervisor (after hours or over weekends) and clearly state that you need to report a ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE EMERGENCY. The dean of students or a member of the staff will respond directly to you. You may also walk the student to the offices below. Staff in these offices are trained to find a professional who will assist immediately. Faculty members should follow these procedures even if the student’s behaviors are ambiguous.

How to Contact Us

During business hours:
Call the Office of the Dean of Students/Student Affairs

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rose Hill</th>
<th>Lincoln Center</th>
<th>Westchester</th>
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<td>9 a.m. - 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>(718) 817-4755</td>
<td>(212) 636-6250</td>
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<td>McGinley Center 242</td>
<td>408 LL</td>
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After hours and on weekends: Call University Security (if forwarded to front desk, ask to speak to the security supervisor).

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<td>(718) 817-4078</td>
<td>(212) 636-6076</td>
<td>(914) 367-3001/3333</td>
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**What to do in a non-emergency**

In non-emergency situations, you may call or walk students to the Counseling Center. Counselors are just a phone call away.

### Counseling and Psychological Services

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<th>Westchester</th>
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<td><strong>Monday – Thursday:</strong></td>
<td>9 a.m. – 7 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Friday:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
<td>(718) 817-3725</td>
<td>(212) 636-6225</td>
<td>(718) 817-3725</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>O’Hare Hall Basement</td>
<td>211 McMahon Hall</td>
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<td>(facing parking structure)</td>
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### Signs of a Possible Substance-Abuse Problem:

These are some common warning signs that a student may have or be at risk for developing an alcohol or other drug problem:

- Changes in his or her appearance
- Loss of motivation or energy
- Changes in personality; shifts in moods or emotions
- Frequently arrives late or cuts classes
- Comes to class exhausted, with a hangover or impaired
- Experiences frequent health problems (illness, injury)
- Frequently requests extensions, turns in work late or not at all
- Dramatic decline in academic performance
- Makes excuses for poor performance or missing classes
- Brags about their substance use or conversations are frequently about alcohol or drug use
- Admits to frequently passing out or suffers blackouts while drinking
- Frequent problems with law enforcement or University authorities

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1 Please note that many of these behavioral descriptions refer to general emotional distress, too. Students often “self-medicate” unpleasant emotions by using substances including alcohol; and chronic substance abuse can lead to emotional difficulties.
How to Approach a Student about a Potential Alcohol/Substance Abuse Problem (in a non-emergency situation):

• DO NOT bring up the subject when the person is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
• DO NOT lecture or badger the student.
• DO NOT try to speculate or explore motives. It can sidetrack you from the main point.
• DO NOT expect a dramatic shift in thinking or behavior right away; this conversation may be the first time the person has thought about this problem.
• DO identify a location and time where you can talk in private without embarrassment or interruptions (typically your faculty office).
• DO express your concern to the student, citing the risk factors you have observed.
• DO list specific problems that have occurred because of this person’s drinking or drug use. Include specific times, places and behaviors.
• DO contact Counseling and Psychological Services (information above)
• DO be supportive and follow up with the student while he or she is getting professional assistance.

Because this may not be an isolated incident, and because a fuller picture of a student emerges when various administrators are alerted and can then pool their information, it is important that you also share the information with one or more of the following:

• Your department chair
• Appropriate class dean
• Counseling Center
• Office of Safety and Security
• Dean of students at each campus
For Further Information:

If you are concerned that a student is abusing alcohol or drugs, use these additional resources to get the student assistance.

**Alcohol and Other Drug Education Program**
Lincoln Center    (212) 636-6250

**Office of Substance Abuse and Student Support**
Rose Hill    (718) 817-3948

**Office of Residential Life**
Lincoln Center    (212) 636-7100    Rose Hill    (718) 817-3080

**Office of Academic Advising**
Fordham College at Lincoln Center Class Deans    (212) 636-6350
Fordham College at Rose Hill Assistant Dean for Freshmen    (718) 817-4730
Fordham College at Rose Hill Assistant Dean for Sophomores    (718) 817-4740
Fordham College at Rose Hill Assistant Dean for Juniors    (718) 817-4740
Fordham College at Rose Hill Assistant Dean for Senators    (718) 817-4735
Gabelli School of Business Assistant Dean for Freshmen    (718) 817-4108
Gabelli School of Business Assistant Dean for Sophomores    (718) 817-4969
Gabelli School of Business Assistant Dean for Juniors    (718) 817-4106
Gabelli School of Business Assistant Dean for Senators    (718) 817-4109

**Fordham University’s Alcohol Policy**

Although the University’s primary emphasis in this area is prevention and the reduction of risk, it also recognizes its responsibility to implement and enforce alcohol regulations that are consistent with New York state law and address the issues of personal health, responsibility and safety for the community. The policy, as part of Fordham’s overall alcohol prevention efforts, aims to increase awareness of the primary and secondary impact alcohol abuse can create, promote safety at social events and encourage the responsible use of alcohol when permitted. University policy includes but is not limited to the following provisions, whether they occur on or off campus.

- No person under the age of 21 may possess, consume, or be in the presence of alcohol (except in officially designated spaces).
- Fordham University prohibits inappropriate behavior that is a direct result of alcohol consumption. Any student who is observed to be intoxicated may be found in violation of the alcohol policy.
• The University prohibits the possession of items used for common distribution of alcohol on leased or owned University property. Such items include, but are not limited to, kegs and party balls.

• Drinking games and rapid consumption techniques and devices (e.g., funnels, shot glasses, beer pong tables, etc.) by their nature promote abusive consumption of alcohol and thus violate the alcohol policy.

• The University prohibits the possession and consumption of alcohol within public areas and administrative and academic buildings, without permission from the authorized University official, which for students and student groups is the dean of students or his designated representative.

• It is prohibited for an underage student to be in the presence of any other person legally or illegally possessing, consuming or selling alcoholic beverages, except when authorized at a registered event.

• It is prohibited for anyone over the age of 21 to consume/possess alcoholic beverages in the presence of individuals under the age of 21, except when authorized at a registered event.

• Students are not permitted to provide alcohol to any person who is underage. For purposes of this regulation, “provide” means to sell, lend, give, make available, exchange, barter or furnish in any way.

• Individuals who are 21 years of age or older may possess and consume beverages containing alcohol in their rooms in University residential units (refer for specific policies to the Office of Residential Life handbook) or at officially-sponsored events. However, conduct resulting from the consumption of alcohol that is in any way illegal or in violation of any other policy is prohibited.

• Students are not permitted to possess or produce false identification or identification that alters one’s age.

• Fordham University expects all students to understand the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and to abide by state law.

Students who procure alcoholic beverages for, or who serve alcoholic beverages to underage persons, who falsify documents or who contribute in any way to illegal alcohol consumption are not conducting themselves in a responsible manner. Further, a student who contributes in any way, however minor, to the intoxication of another person may be held personally liable for any injury or damage the intoxicated person causes or in which he or she becomes involved. For more information regarding New York State General Obligations Law, please refer to the Drug Free Campus Guidelines section of the Student Handbook.
Works Cited: