

A Description of SDI's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

Sonoran Desert Institute (SDI), hereinafter referred to as the “school,” publishes and annually distributes a copy of its Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP) to all students and employees. Below is an overview of SDI's efforts to maintain a safe and healthy environment free from drug and alcohol abuse.

Commitment to a Drug-Free Environment

Impairing substances adversely affect judgment, increase the risk of injury, and undermine a safe educational and working environment. In accordance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226), violations of federal, state, or local laws or SDI policies are subject to disciplinary action and may involve criminal prosecution.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention

Drug and alcohol abuse affects schools, communities, homes, and communities. SDI strives to mitigate these impacts through clear policies and sharing of available resources.

Standards of Conduct

The SDI community must adhere to a code of conduct that recognizes the unlawful sale, delivery, unauthorized possession, or use of any illicit drug on property owned or otherwise controlled by SDI. If an individual associated with the school is charged with violating any drug or alcohol-related law while on school property, or while participating in a school activity, the school will fully cooperate with all law enforcement agencies. Underage possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on property owned or controlled by the school.

Health Risks of Substance Abuse

- **Alcohol:** Moderate to high consumption impairs cognitive function, causes memory loss, and may lead to respiratory depression, dependence, and organ damage.
- **Drugs:** Illicit drugs impair memory, coordination, and motivation while posing risks of addiction, organ damage, and withdrawal symptoms.

Students and employees should be aware of the significant psychological and physiological health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Physical addiction, loss of control, withdrawal syndrome, and damage to vital organs can result from drug and alcohol abuse. Additional information regarding the effects, symptoms of overdose and withdrawal, and potential consequences may be found at:

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.org

Counseling and Support Resources

Students and employees in need of support may contact:

- **The 211 Helpline** or the **988 National Helpline** for local resources and referrals.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous:** www.aa.org
- **National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence:** Recovered.org
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:**
<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>

For additional resources, students may contact SDI's Student Success Department, and employees may contact the Human Resources Department.

Sanctions for Violations

SDI enforces a zero-tolerance policy for violations of its drug and alcohol policies. Consequences may include:

- Disciplinary action based on the severity of the violation.
- Dismissal from the school.
- Compliance with local, state, and federal sanctions.

State of Arizona Laws

- **Illicit Drugs:** Possession or use of illegal drugs and other controlled substances is classified as a felony under Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) § 13-3401 through § 13-3421. Penalties vary depending on the substance and amount but can include imprisonment, fines, and mandatory participation in drug treatment programs.
- **Underage Alcohol Consumption:** It is illegal for individuals under the age of twenty-one to purchase, possess, or consume alcohol. Violations may result in fines, suspension of driving privileges, and community service under ARS § 4-244(9).

Federal Laws

The possession, distribution, or use of illicit drugs and alcohol is also governed by federal law, which imposes penalties to deter these activities. Under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), possession of controlled substances is a federal offense, punishable by up to one year in prison and a minimum fine of \$1,000 for a first offense. Penalties increase for subsequent offenses. Schedule I and II substance penalties can be a minimum of 5 years in prison for a first offense, with fines.

Federal law prohibits the purchase and public possession of alcohol by individuals under twenty-one under the National Minimum Drinking Age Act. Violators may face fines, community service, and other penalties.

2024 Biennial Review of SDI's Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program

Time Period Covered: September 2022 – September 2024

Overview

To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, SDI conducts a biennial review to evaluate the effectiveness of its program and ensure alignment with federal requirements.

Program Areas

1. **Prevention:** Resources to educate and deter substance abuse
2. **Standards of Conduct:** Policies prohibiting illicit drugs and alcohol
3. **Legal Sanctions:** Guidance on penalties for violations
4. **Health Risks:** Details regarding the consequences of substance abuse
5. **Resources:** Access to counseling and treatment options
6. **Disciplinary Measures:** Enforcement of policies

Biennial Review Objectives

1. **Effectiveness Assessment:** Evaluate programs for improvement
2. **Policy Enforcement Analysis:** Ensure consistent application of sanctions

SDI's status as an online institution has contributed to minimal reports of alcohol and drug substance related violations or issues. SDI remains dedicated to fostering an alcohol and drug-free educational environment.

Request for Copies

For a printed copy of this report, please contact SDI's Compliance Department at compliance@sdi.edu or Human Resources at hr@sdi.edu.