

Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

Alcohol and illicit drugs are prohibited on the grounds of Westminster College. Students found to be in possession of alcohol or illicit drugs on campus will face disciplinary action through the College Code of Conduct and could face criminal prosecution as well. Sanctions fall anywhere between a warning and expulsion, depending on the nature of the violation.

Under Pennsylvania law, criminal prosecution for alcohol violations could range between a summary offense and a misdemeanor of the second degree depending on the circumstances of the case. Penalties range from a simple fine and 90-day driver's license suspension to incarceration for a maximum of 2 years.

Drug law violations can range from a misdemeanor of the third degree to a felony of the first degree. Penalties range from a fine to a maximum of 15 years incarceration.

Students may seek professional counseling for substance abuse problems through the Counseling Services Office. Students sanctioned through the Student Code of Conduct may be required to successfully complete a rehabilitation program as a condition of retention or reinstatement as a student at Westminster.

Any recognized student organization that sponsors a social event, whether in a campus facility, fraternity house, or other off campus facility, should be aware of the following policies and responsibilities: Because they are under the age of 21, Pennsylvania Law prohibits most Westminster students from drinking alcoholic beverages. For the sake of reasonable administration, and in order to create the best possible living and educational atmosphere, there shall be no use, possession, sale, or serving of alcoholic beverages by any student while on or in College property (including College owned or rented vehicles). The College cannot be legally responsible if students ignore state laws, College policies, and good common sense by drinking at all if under the legal drinking age, or drinking excessively if over the legal age.

In fairness to our students, the same policy applies to guests and visitors to our campus. Federal and state laws prohibit the use, possession, sale, or distribution of certain drugs and drug-related paraphernalia. The use of such drugs is not in

keeping with the mission of Westminster College. Therefore, there shall be no use, possession, sale, or distribution of such drugs on campus or on or in fraternity property, or at College-sponsored events. The administration will take the strongest stand concerning illegal drugs, up to and including expulsion and/or involvement of state and federal law enforcement.

Counseling services are available to students who would like to discuss any problems related to drugs or alcohol. In all cases of student involvement in alcohol/drug abuse, the College will offer the services of the counseling staff. All counseling conferences are confidential.

The links found below list several community resources including area drug and alcohol treatment facilities.

<http://www.westminster.edu/campus/health/counseling.cfm>

https://my.westminster.edu/ics/Campus_Life/Campus_Groups/Counseling_Services/Community_Resources.jnz#_ga=1.111271236.1955768356.1454102132

IMPACT OF DRUG CONVICTION ON TITLE IV ELIGIBILITY

Under federal law, a person receiving Title IV financial aid (Pell Grant, SEOG, Direct Stafford Loans, or Federal Work-study) who is convicted for possession and/or sale of illegal drugs while enrolled as a student at Westminster College, will be ineligible for further Title IV funds for a fixed period of time, as indicated below.

	Possession of Illegal Drugs	Sale of Illegal Drugs
1 st Offense	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from date of conviction
2 nd Offense	2 years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
3 Plus Offenses	Indefinite Period	

If convicted of both possession and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, the student will not receive Title IV funds for the longer period.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when the student successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program. The student will lose eligibility again upon a subsequent drug conviction.