What’s the deal with...

DRUG VIOLATIONS?

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, young adults age 18 to 25 have the highest rate of drug use and abuse – 19.7 percent reported current use in 2007. Drug users in the U.S. “spend substantially more than $60 billion annually to purchase drugs.” As of 2006, there are more than 1.8 million drug arrests each year. Federal and District of Columbia law provides severe penalties for drug use and possession, and the University takes drug possession and use seriously.

But what does that mean?

Students will be faced with the choice to use drugs or to abstain. Drug use and abuse is a challenge facing the GW community, the District, and the nation. The University seeks to educate students about the effects of drug use and abuse so students can make informed decisions and stay safe.

How does that affect life at GW?

The University is obligated by federal law to enforce compliance with drug laws and has put policies in place to do so. GW has a strict drug policy regardless of where the incident occurs. The “Code of Student Conduct” prohibits the possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of illegal drugs or controlled substances and also bans the possession of paraphernalia containing drug residue. These examples are taken from actual cases, but this is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

GW considers possession of...

...a bong, pipe, hookah or bowl*...
...spoons, straws, or razor blades*...
...someone else’s prescription medication (e.g. Adderall, Xanax)...
...cocaine or any cocaine derivative (e.g. “crack”)...  
...MDMA - a.k.a. ecstasy, X, E, etc...
...rolling papers, scales, and baggies*...
...opium or any opium derivative (e.g. “heroin”)...  
...any amount of marijuana, including seeds...
...LSD, psilocybin mushrooms...
*in conjunction with drugs or drug residue

While not typical, drug use and abuse can lead to serious academic, social, physical, and psychological complications. Lower grades, diminished self esteem, difficulty concentrating, liver and kidney damage, permanent mental impairment, irregular heartbeats, stroke, coma, and death - are all potential complications of drug use.

What if I choose to use drugs?

Be prepared to accept the consequences of your decision. You will face disciplinary action taken by the University. The type, the quantity or weight, and your disciplinary/administrative history will be considered by the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities when making decisions about your case. In some instances, students are arrested due to drug violations. Subsequently you may then face a court process, in addition to the disciplinary action taken by the University. Students found in violation of a drug violation are placed at a minimum on Disciplinary Probation, are required to complete a drug education assignment or assessment and pay a fine. Many students lose their housing and some are suspended or expelled for serious violations or repeat offenses. Distribution and/or the manufacture of drugs will lead to suspension or expulsion from the University. GW may inform the parents of all students who violate the University’s drug policies, provided that the student is under the age of 21 at the time of notification.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING DRUG USE AND ABUSE, PLEASE CONTACT
The Colonial Health Center – Health Promotion & Prevention Services
AT (202) 994-2599 OR VIA E-MAIL AT PREVENTION@GWU.EDU.

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