Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention

Drug abuse affects all aspects of life. It threatens the workplace as well as our homes, our schools and our community. The U.S. Department of Education requires institutions of higher education to implement a drug prevention and awareness program for their students and employees. J’Renee College abides by federal Drug-Free Workplace and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act regulations regardless of individual state legalization. Students are expected to conduct themselves ethically, honestly and with integrity as responsible members of the University’s academic community. Any member of the University community found consuming or selling alcohol and other drugs on University property, including attending class or meeting with campus personnel, is subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the University, depending on the seriousness of the situation.

Prohibition of Illicit Drug Use

The University community must adhere to a code of conduct that recognizes the unlawful manufacture, sale, delivery, unauthorized possession or use of any illicit drug is prohibited on property owned or otherwise controlled by J’Renee College. If an individual is apprehended for violating any alcohol- or other drug related law while at a University location or activity, the University will fully support and cooperate with federal and state law enforcement agencies. The University enforces a “zero tolerance” policy regarding underage drinking. Underage possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on property owned or controlled by the University, and the state laws will be enforced. Also, intentionally or knowingly selling, or intentionally or knowingly furnishing alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21, or to persons obviously inebriated, is not permitted on property owned or controlled by the University.

Federal Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Violations

According to the Higher Education Act (HEA), students convicted for a drug offense that occurred during a period of enrollment while they were receiving federal financial aid may lose eligibility for federal aid. Federal aid includes Federal Pell and FSEOG Grants, Federal Work Study, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, Graduate PLUS Loans and other financial assistance. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) asks students if they have been convicted of a drug-related offense. If the student answers “yes” to the question, then he or she will be sent a worksheet by the federal processing center in order to determine whether the conviction affects eligibility for aid. Should the financial aid office be notified that a student has been convicted of sale or possession of illegal drugs, financial assistance will be suspended immediately. If a conviction was reversed, set aside or otherwise rendered invalid, it does not count. Convictions occurring during periods of non-enrollment also do not count. In addition, any conviction received as a juvenile does not count, unless the student was tried as an adult. Failure to answer the question automatically disqualifies students from receiving federal financial aid. Answering this question falsely could result in fines, imprisonment or both. More information about federal penalties and sanctions is located at http://www.justice.gov/dea/druginfo/ftp3.shtml
Penalties for Drug Convictions

If a student is convicted of a drug-related felony or misdemeanor that took place while she or he was receiving federal student aid, the student will become ineligible to receive further during a period of enrollment for which he or she was receiving federal student aid. If the student was convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs during a period for which the student was receiving federal student aid, and the periods of ineligibility are different, then the student will be ineligible for the longer period.

**POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS**

- First offense: Loss of eligibility for federal financial aid for one year from the date of conviction.
- Second offense: Loss of eligibility for federal financial aid for two years from the date of conviction.
- Third offense and subsequent offenses: Indefinite ineligibility for federal financial aid from the date of conviction.

**SALE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS**

- First offense: Loss of eligibility for federal financial aid for two years from the date of conviction.
- Second offense and subsequent offenses: Indefinite ineligibility from the date of conviction.

**How to Reduce the Period of Eligibility or Regain Eligibility**

The student may shorten the period of ineligibility by:

- Successfully completing an approved drug rehabilitation program that includes passing two unannounced drug tests;
- Passing two unannounced drug tests administered by an approved drug rehabilitation program; or
- Having the conviction reversed, set aside or otherwise rendered invalid. The student may regain eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends. Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it after successfully completing a qualified rehabilitation program, passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program, or if a conviction is reversed, set aside or removed from the student’s record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record (in such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility). Students who regain eligibility during the award year should notify the financial aid office immediately so that they might receive any eligible financial aid which they are entitled to receive. It is the student’s responsibility to certify that a rehabilitation program was successfully completed, as with the conviction question on the FAFSA, the University is not required to confirm the reported information unless conflicting information is determined.

**Qualified Drug Rehabilitation Program**

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least two unannounced drug tests and must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

- Be qualified to receive funds directly or indirectly from a federal, state or local government program.
- Be qualified to receive payment directly or indirectly from a federally or state-licensed insurance company.
- Be administered or recognized by a federal, state or local government agency or court.
- Be administered or recognized by a federal or state-licensed hospital, health clinic or medical doctor.
Convictions for Offense That Occurred During Enrollment

Federal regulations require an enrolled student convicted of a drug offense after receiving federal financial aid to notify Student Financial Services immediately. The student may be ineligible for further aid in that academic year and required to pay back all federal aid received after the date of the conviction. Student Financial Services will work with the student regarding all of the available options.

Institutional Sanctions for Alcohol and Drug Violations

Any member of the University community found possessing or selling illegal drugs on University property shall be subject to discipline on a case-by-case basis.

• Discipline will be based on the seriousness of the situation.
• A case may result in dismissal from the University.
• In all cases, the University will abide by local, state and federal sanctions regarding unlawful possession of drugs and the consumption of alcohol.
• Additional state penalties and sanctions may also apply.
• The University has adopted a zero-tolerance policy regarding alcohol and drug violations.