



THE RAPHA SCHOOL, LLC

Alcohol and Other Drug Policy

2022-2023

The Rapha School, LLC

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INTRODUCTION

The Rapha School Alcohol and Other Drug Policy, like other standards of conduct applicable to the community, is intended to further the educational mission of The Rapha School. The School is committed to fostering an environment that promotes the acquisition of knowledge and nurtures the growth of the individual.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The Rapha School prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, sale, possession or use of any drug by any of its students, employees in its workplace, on its premises or as part of any of its activities. This includes the unlawful sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of any prescription drug.

STUDENT ALCOHOL POLICIES

The Rapha School seeks to encourage and sustain an academic environment that respects individual freedom and promotes the health, safety and welfare of all members of its community. In keeping with these objectives, the school has established the following policy governing the possession, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages by students of The Rapha School, and conforming to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Rapha School's alcohol policy and programs are intended to encourage its members to make responsible decisions about the use of alcoholic beverages, and to promote safe, legal, and healthy patterns of social interaction.

The Rapha School prohibits students from engaging in the following:

1. Use, possession or consumption of alcohol by individuals who are under twenty-one (21) years of age.
2. Excessive consumption of alcohol, intoxication, alcohol impairment, or alcohol abuse as evidenced by factors including, but not limited to, public drunkenness, disorderly or erratic behavior, slurring of speech, physical coordination difficulties, vomiting, or a preliminary breath test reading/blood alcohol content of .08% or greater. Excessive consumption of alcohol is not an excuse for behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct.
3. Social hosting, which is defined as providing the site for a gathering where underage alcohol possession or use is documented.

4. Providing or serving alcohol to individuals who are under the age of twenty-one (21). Please note that under Pennsylvania state law, charging admission, selling mugs, glasses, chits, tickets, etc. constitute furnishing alcohol without a legal license and are illegal.
5. Possessing an open container containing alcohol in a public location (i.e. street, Commons)
6. Operating a motor vehicle in an illegal or unsafe manner while under the influence of alcohol.
7. Violating laws or ordinances pertaining to the possession or consumption of alcohol.

If an Instructor or other person of authority, i.e., another nurse at a clinical site, has reason to believe a student may be under the influence, the student must immediately submit to a drug test at the expense of the student. The results of the test will be reviewed at the meeting with the Director.

STATE AND CITY LAWS CONCERNING ALCOHOL

Below is a list of prominent laws and ordinances. However, this list is not comprehensive. Students are encouraged to ensure they are familiar with relevant laws and ordinances. Failure to abide by them may result in disciplinary action.

1. It is illegal for any person under twenty-one (21) years of age to attempt to purchase, consume, possess or transport any alcoholic beverage. Note that Pennsylvania applies the concept of constructive possession under which guilt can be construed for possession of alcohol by determining that alcohol was readily available to a minor who apparently made no good faith attempt to distance him or herself from it. Also note that individuals who violate this law do not have a right to a breath test or blood test.
2. It is illegal for any person to sell, furnish or give away any alcoholic beverage to a person under twenty-one (21) years of age or to any person who is visibly intoxicated.
3. It is illegal to operate or control a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. "Under the influence" is currently defined in Pennsylvania as .08% blood alcohol content for individuals who are twenty-one (21) years of age or older and .02% blood alcohol content for individuals who are less than twenty-one (21) years of age.

STUDENT DRUG POLICY

The Rapha School established this policy in an effort to ensure the most positive learning environment for all students. Violations of this policy are serious and may result in a student's suspension from The Rapha School, even for a first offense.

The Rapha School students are prohibited from engaging in the following:

1. Use or possession of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or other substances that significantly alter one's physical and/or mental state.
2. Use or possession of a controlled substance without a valid prescription; Use of a controlled substance in a manner other than as prescribed; Abuse of prescription or over-the-counter products.
3. Use or possession of drug paraphernalia or items that have been or can be used to smoke or ingest illegal drugs, controlled substances, or other substances that significantly alter one's physical and/or mental state (i.e., pipes, hookahs, bowls, bongs).
4. Being in the presence of any other student who is engaging in a violation of the Drug Policy.
5. Manufacture, transfer, sale, distribution, or intent to distribute any amount of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or other substances that significantly alter one's physical and/or mental state. Students who engage in such conduct will be suspended from the school as a minimum sanction, even for a first offense.

If an Instructor or other person of authority, i.e., another nurse at a clinical site, has reason to believe a student may be under the influence, the student must immediately submit to a drug test at the expense of the student. The results of the test will be reviewed at the meeting with the Director.

HEALTH CONCERNS AND HEALTH RISKS

Any individual choosing to abuse alcohol or engage in the illicit use of alcohol and other drugs needs to be made aware that there may be a wide variety of health risks associated with this behavior. Chemical dependency, or addiction to alcohol and other drugs, is a chronic progressive illness that, if untreated, can be fatal.

Long term effects of alcohol abuse or alcoholism may include liver damage, especially cirrhosis (scarring of the liver); heart disease, including congestive heart failure; ulcers and gastritis; malnutrition; cancer of the mouth, esophagus or stomach; brain damage and possible psychosis; and fetal alcohol effect and fetal alcohol syndrome in infants of drinking mothers.

Use of other illicit drugs may pose some of the following hazards:

- Cocaine results in changes in blood pressure, heart and breathing rates, severe weight loss and liver damage, and it may cause seizures, coma and possibly death.
- Marijuana can affect coordination, short-term memory, visual tracking and heart rate. Regular use can produce reproductive system changes, damage to the respiratory system (lungs) and the immune system.
- Depressants in large doses can cause altered perception, slurred speech and a staggering gait. Very large doses can cause respiratory depression, coma and possibly death. In combination with alcohol, another depressant, these effects can be intensified and this multiplies the risk.
- Hallucinogens, like phencyclidine (PCP), can produce a range of effects that include slowed time and body movement, worsened muscular coordination and dulled senses. Speech can be blocked and often incoherent. Violent PCP episodes may result in self-inflicted injury. Increasing use may produce persistent memory problems and speech difficulties, depression, anxiety and violent behavior. Large doses may result in convulsions, coma, heart and lung failure and possible stroke.
- Narcotics (codeine, heroin, and a variety of prescription medications) will produce an initial feeling of euphoria followed by drowsiness, nausea and vomiting, constricted (shrinking) pupils, watery eyes and itching. Overdose may produce slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma and possible death. Due to frequent use of needles with this class of drugs, infectious diseases, including AIDS are a major concern.
- Inhalants, volatile breathable substances, which are abused by sniffing or inhaling, may interfere diversely with breathing or produce irregular heartbeats that can lead to heart failure and death. Long-term use has resulted in bone marrow damage, drastic weight loss, impairment of vision and memory, and the ability to think clearly.

It is not necessary to become addicted to or dependent upon any of these drugs to experience a wide variety of personal and/or family problems. "Harmful involvement" with any of the drugs mentioned here may show up in a number of different ways.

Use of alcohol and/or the other drugs may result in poor judgment; poor coordination; lessened concentration; slower reaction times; impaired eyesight; slips and falls; self-induced burns due to fire; injuries from improper use of hazardous materials, or shop machinery on the job or in class; and motor vehicle crashes. In addition, personal motivation and productivity may decline. Quality of work and cooperation with others may also be jeopardized.

The impact of alcohol abuse and illicit alcohol and other drug use is also seen in both family and social circles. Continued use and abuse oftentimes may increase problems in existing dysfunctional family/social systems or may give rise to the development of dysfunctional family/social systems impacting on significant others, spouses, children, parents, and friends. Friendships and work relationships may suffer and personal relationships, including marriages, very often become strained to the point of separation or divorce. The incidence of alcohol and other drug use involved in car crashes, violent and petty crime, and domestic violence and sexual assault is well documented and very high.

It is important to note that while we as individuals may not be personally affected by the behaviors and consequences noted above, each of us at one time during our lives will probably have to deal with a friend, family member, or co-worker who is struggling with his or her use/abuse of alcohol and/or other drugs. It is therefore important for all of us to know how we can access available resources in our community.

As a community, we encourage individual members to reach their full potential as persons and citizens, unencumbered by destructive or counterproductive patterns of behavior.

CONSEQUENCES FOR POLICY VIOLATIONS

All members of The Rapha School are expected to comply with applicable local, state and federal laws regarding the possession, use or sale of alcohol or other drugs, whether on or off-campus, and are expected to comply with all school policies regarding alcohol possession or use. Individuals and organizations which violate this policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Any student who violates The Rapha School policies or applicable law may be subject to disciplinary actions and/or referral for prosecution. Disciplinary actions for students may include probation or suspension, as well as possible civil and criminal penalties. The Rapha School also supports enforcement, by applicable law enforcement agencies, of all local, state and federal laws.

AMNESTY FOR VIOLATIONS

A student protected by Pennsylvania's Medical Amnesty Law will not incur consequences for violations under this policy. Pennsylvania's Medical Amnesty Law states; If a person, in good faith, calls and believes he or she is the first to call 911, police or an ambulance, gives his/her name and stays with the person to prevent that person's death or serious injury, the caller is immune from prosecution for consumption or possession of alcohol.