

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, Public Law 101-226, requires that colleges implement a program to prevent unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. It also requires colleges to provide information on health risks of alcohol and other drugs as well as laws and legal sanctions regarding possession and sale of alcohol or illegal sale or possession of drugs or alcohol. Finally it requires that students and employees be informed of ways to get help.

### **Health Risks of Alcohol**

Effects of alcohol use can include impaired judgment and compromised skills such as perception and reaction in driving an automobile. Moderate to large amounts of alcohol can cause respiratory failure and death. Regular consumption over time has been implicated in a number of diseases. Psychological and physical dependence are risks as well.

### **Alcohol Laws and Potential Penalties**

In North Carolina it is illegal for someone under age 21 to purchase or possess alcohol and it is illegal for anyone to provide alcohol to a person who is under age 21. It is a violation of the law to use a fake ID to purchase alcohol or to gain admittance to a bar. It is also illegal to possess an open container of alcohol in public areas.

It is illegal to drive and drink at the same time. It is also illegal to drive while having a blood alcohol content (BAC) above .08 (above .00 for anyone under age 21).

These offences typically result in a misdemeanor charge, fines, court costs, and possible court ordered assessment or educational classes. Driving under the influence of alcohol often results in a one year revocation of one's driver license for a first offence. Some circumstances such as multiple violations or physical injury can result in prison time.

### **Drug Health Risks and Potential Legal Sanctions**

Health risks of drug use and potential legal consequences are explained at:

[Drug abuse health risks](#)

[Federal drug trafficking penalties](#)

[North Carolina drug penalties](#)

### **Getting Help with a Drug or Alcohol Problem**

Resources for getting help are listed at:

[Getting Help with a Drug or Alcohol Problem](#)