

Marijuana Policy

Muskingum University mandates compliance with all federal, state, and local laws regarding illegal controlled substances.

In keeping with Ohio and federal laws, which prohibit the manufacture, use, possession, sale, or offering for sale of controlled substances, including marijuana (cannabis), narcotics, and hallucinogens, the University prohibits the use, including appearing under the influence, possession, or distribution (for sale or for share) of any illegal drug or controlled substance, except that expressly permitted by University policy or local, state, or federal law. This includes wrongful possession, misuse, or distribution of prescription medication. Muskingum University will encourage and cooperate in the enforcement of these laws, including the prosecution of its students by local law enforcement agencies.

A major consequence of the abuse of controlled substances including marijuana (cannabis), is that it may cause the development of an addiction. While almost anyone may develop an addiction, some students are more vulnerable than others due to inherited biological factors. Students whose parents or grandparents had an alcohol, or other drug problem may develop an addiction more quickly and easily than other students. Alcohol or drug-addicted students may cease growing intellectually and emotionally and may never learn to cope with problems constructively but attempt instead to avoid and compound problems by getting “high.”

Muskingum University is committed to increasing awareness about alcohol/drug issues, creating prevention strategies that discourage irresponsible and illegal use, and to providing ongoing support for those individuals who have decided not to use alcohol and illegal drugs.

Medical Marijuana (cannabis)

The State of Ohio passed House Bill 523 (2016), known as the Ohio Medical Marijuana (cannabis) Control Program (the “Program”). The Program legalizes the limited use of marijuana (cannabis) for medical purposes. However, marijuana (cannabis) remains illegal under federal law. Specifically, Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. Thus, in conjunction with the Federal Drug-Free School Zone Act of 1988 and the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the University remains an institution of higher education dedicated to maintaining a drug-free learning and working environment. Accordingly, medical marijuana (cannabis) is treated the same as an illicit drug, even if a student possesses a valid Ohio medical marijuana (cannabis) patient card.

Recreational Use

As previously stated, marijuana (cannabis) remains illegal under federal law. Specifically, Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. Thus, in conjunction with the Federal Drug-

Free School Zone Act of 1988 and the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the University remains an institution of higher education dedicated to maintaining a drug-free learning and working environment. This applies even with the approval of Ohio Issue 2 in 2024 allowing for recreational use of marijuana (cannabis) for those of age (21+)

The University must still follow federal laws and regulations. Therefore, recreational use of marijuana (cannabis) is forbidden on University Property.

Students with questions regarding medical or recreational use of marijuana (cannabis) should contact the Student Life Office. In accordance with the Program, the University shall not consider out-of-state medical marijuana (cannabis) patient cards as valid until such time, if ever, that the Program officially recognizes the same.

The University's primary concern is the health and safety of its community members, the [Amnesty Policy](#) may exempt a person(s) from the Student Code of Conduct Process for a violation of the Controlled Substance Policy.

Marijuana (Cannabis) Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

Possession, constructive possession, or use of controlled substances- Students may not possess or use any controlled substances, including marijuana (cannabis) products.

Smells or sounds related to use of controlled substances are reasonable evidence to initiate a drug search or for use in a student conduct process.

Possession or constructive possession of drug paraphernalia- Students may not possess any drug paraphernalia. Any item that is or has been used for use of drugs or masking use will be considered paraphernalia.

Trafficking controlled substances (Marijuana (cannabis))- Students may not sell, provide, or give controlled substances including marijuana (cannabis) or products derived from, to any individuals. Due to the severity of the impact on the community, trafficking controlled substances is considered a serious violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Inhaling or ingesting any mind-altering substance- Students may not use or abuse any substance in a manner that alters one's mental state, including marijuana or cannabis based products.

Manufacturing Marijuana (cannabis) – Students may not manufacture, grow, or produce marijuana (cannabis) or products derived from such, on any campus owned property.

Possible Marijuana Policy Enforcement Outcomes:

Includes but is not limited to the following:

- Educational assignment and reflective component
- Restorative Assignment
- Minimum of one semester of conduct probation (time-limited suspension may be sanctioned based upon the circumstances of the incident).
- Minimum of one semester of university housing probation (time-limited suspension may be sanctioned based upon the circumstances of the incident).
- Parental contact letter detailing incident written by the student (if under 21)
- Possible participation in substance abuse counseling assessment, follow-up substance abuse treatment plan inclusive of individual and/or group therapy as determined appropriate