

On Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 9:59 AM Sonoma State University <[updates@sonoma.edu](mailto:updates@sonoma.edu)> wrote:

December 22, 2020

TO: All Sonoma State University Students

FR: Dr. Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Vice President for Student Affairs

RE: Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act - Annual Notification

Dear Sonoma State University Student:

You are receiving this notification in accordance with the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 and the Drug-Free Workplace Act, which require universities to provide students and employees information annually about alcohol and other drug issues. The University takes seriously its obligation to inform the campus community of available resources and support for the benefit of the Sonoma State community, as well as the educational, disciplinary, health, and legal consequences of abuse of alcohol and illegal drug use, in compliance with relevant federal and state law.

Sonoma State University is committed to creating an academic environment free of drug and alcohol misuse. While the majority of our students and employees do not misuse alcohol or drugs, SSU is not immune to this serious health issue. As a University family, we are concerned about any individual on campus who may have a problem with alcohol and other drugs and are always ready to reach out to arrange counseling and education through various programs. Please consider saving this email as it contains valuable information that may be of assistance to you or a friend. Please visit the [Division of Student Affairs DAAPP website](#) to learn more about the services and programs available to you. Please note that due to COVID-19, many programs and direct services have transitioned to a remote format or require an appointment.

The content below provides information on University policy, health risks, and legal sanctions associated with alcohol and other drug abuse. Also included is information about campus programs that offer prevention, intervention, assessments, counseling, and referrals.

Sincerely,

## **Dr. Wm. Gregory Sawyer**

Vice President for Student Affairs

### **Sonoma State University**

#### **Commitment to a Safe and Healthy Campus**

Consistent with our concern for the wellbeing of faculty, staff, and students, it is the policy of the University to maintain a work and academic environment free from drug and alcohol abuse. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, sale, offer to sell, offer to purchase, and/or unlawful use of controlled substances or alcohol on campus or as any part of University-related activities is prohibited. Controlled substances include, but are not limited to, cannabis, heroin, cocaine, LSD, and amphetamines.

As a condition of employment, all California State University (CSU) employees (faculty, staff, and student employees) must comply with the CSU Drug-Free Workplace Policy. You can find the Sonoma State University Drug-Free Workplace Policy [here](#).

By virtue of enrollment at Sonoma State University, each student consents to follow the policies and procedures of the University, including those outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. It is the individual student's responsibility to be familiar with all applicable conduct-related policies. A student may access all [University policies online](#).

The Office of Student Conduct is responsible for the adjudication of cases involving students and student organizations accused of violating campus rules, regulations, or policies, federal or state laws, and/or municipality ordinances. The Student Conduct process is not a legal process and is separate from federal, state, and local court proceedings. Instead, the standard of responsibility is based on a preponderance of evidence. The student conduct process is expected to:

- Determine responsibility for behaviors that violate university rules, policies, and federal, state, and local laws or ordinances
- Offer outcomes to assist students in learning about the impact of their actions on themselves and others within their respective communities

- Protect the integrity of students, faculty, staff, the institution, and the University community

All University students, faculty members, and staff are subject to local state and federal laws regarding the unlawful possession, distribution, or use of alcohol and illegal drugs. Violators are subject to University discipline, criminal prosecution, and/or removal from University housing. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of illegal drugs on the University campus or at any University-sponsored event off-campus is also prohibited.

### **Penalties for Violating the Drug-Free Schools and Communities and Drug-Free Workplace Acts**

Local, state, and federal laws establish severe penalties for violations of drug and alcohol statutes. These sanctions, upon conviction, may range from a fine to life imprisonment. With possession or distribution of illegal drugs, these sanctions could include the seizure and summary forfeiture of property, including vehicles. Any person found in a public place to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs and unable to care for his/her own safety or interfering with a public way can be charged with disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor offense. The University Police Department will enforce these laws.

### **Health Risks of Substance Abuse**

Health risks of drug abuse include but are not limited to sleep disorders, confusion, hallucinations, paranoia, deep depression, malnutrition, liver and kidney damage, cardiac irregularities, hepatitis, and neurological damage.

Alcohol is a depressant. It depresses the central nervous system and can cause serious physical damage. Excessive drinking damages the liver, resulting in cirrhosis. Chronic alcohol abuse also causes hypertension, cardiac irregularities, ulcers, pancreatitis, kidney disease, cancer of the esophagus, liver, bladder, or lungs, memory loss, tremors, malnutrition, vitamin deficiencies, and possibly sexual dysfunction. Abuse of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy increases the risk of birth defects, spontaneous abortion and stillbirths.

## **Campus Programs for Prevention, Intervention, Assessments, Counseling, & Referrals**

The primary focus of Sonoma State University's substance abuse prevention program is education and counseling. As part of this program, the University will provide educational workshops for faculty, staff, and students, to address the medical, health, psychological, social, and legal ramifications of illicit drug and alcohol use. Sonoma State recognizes drug and alcohol dependency as treatable conditions and offers employee support programs for individuals with substance dependency problems.

### **Alcohol and Other Drugs Education & Prevention Specialist (AODEPS)**

The AOD Education and Prevention Specialist reports to the Director of Student Conduct within the Division Student Affairs. In consultation with the University Care Team, the AODEPS provides individual or group sessions for students in order to identify risky behaviors in hopes to prevent alcohol and drug abuse amongst Sonoma State students.

Email: [Steve.MacDonald@sonoma.edu](mailto:Steve.MacDonald@sonoma.edu)

Hours: by appointment

### **Student Health Center (SHC)**

The Student Health Center provides high quality medical, public health, and health education services designed to support the retention, academic achievement, and success of SSU students, facilitate healthy lifestyle choices, and help promote a safe, healthy campus environment.

Website: <http://web.sonoma.edu/shc/>

Location: West side of campus, north of Schulz Library and across from Zinfandel Residence Halls. See <https://health.sonoma.edu/contact>

Phone: (707) 664-2921

Email: [centerhe@sonoma.edu](mailto:centerhe@sonoma.edu)

Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Friday 9:30am - 5pm excluding campus holidays & closures

### **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

CAPS offers confidential counseling to students experiencing personal problems that interfere with their academic progress, career or wellbeing.

Website: <http://web.sonoma.edu/counselingctr/>

Phone: (707) 664-2153

Appointment Hours: Monday,, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm