

# South Hills School of Business & Technology

## DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

### Introduction

South Hills has an obligation to do whatever we can to make sure our students are aware of the dangers of drugs and to not use drugs. We not only have an obligation to our students, but also an obligation to the employers who hire our graduates. We have made a commitment to help students receive the best education possible for their chosen career. Employers of our graduates trust us to provide the best employees in the field with top-notch skills. We cannot fully educate students or provide employers with good employees if our students are using drugs or drinking.

In accordance with the Drug-Free School and Communities Act amendments of 1989, Public Law 101-226, South Hills is hereby declared a drug- and alcohol-free school and workplace. In conformance with the law, South Hills will make a good faith effort to maintain a drug- and alcohol-free school and workplace through implementation of the preceding policy. South Hills has established and maintains a drug- and alcohol-free awareness program.

### Policy Statement on Drugs & Alcohol

Students are prohibited from the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance or alcohol anywhere on property belonging to South Hills, including grounds, parking areas, anywhere within the building, or while participating in school-related activities.

### Drug & Alcohol Programs

The school provides a program related to drug use and abuse, including dissemination of information materials, educational programs, and counseling services at orientation each year.

### Disciplinary Procedures

Students found to be using drugs or alcohol during school hours will be required to meet with the Director and/or Campus Director. The student will be counseled and, if necessary, referred for additional professional counseling.

### Sanctions

As a condition of enrollment, students must abide by the terms of the policy or South Hills will take one or more of the following actions within 30 days with respect to any student who violates this policy by:

- Written warning
- Reporting the violation to law enforcement officials
- Requiring each student to participate in a substance abuse rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a federal, state, or local health, law enforcement or other appropriate agency
- Expulsion

### Pennsylvania Drug & Alcohol Law

In accordance with Pennsylvania law:

- The legal drinking age in Pennsylvania is 21; persons under the age of 21 may not consume, purchase or possess alcohol.
- It is unlawful to sell or furnish alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21.

- It is unlawful for persons under the age of 21 to misrepresent one's age for the purposes of purchasing alcoholic beverages.
- It is illegal to possess, consume, or sell illicit drugs including marijuana, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, and barbiturates.

Individuals who have questions about how drug or alcohol use can affect the mind, body or career or if the individual needs information to get off drugs or alcohol, South Hills School is willing to assist. Information and resources are available from our Drug Abuse Prevention Coordinator in the Academic Affairs Office.

### **Health Risks**

Considerable health risks are associated with the abuse of controlled substances. Substance abuse dramatically impairs employee and student performance, contributes to absenteeism and presents safety risks for not only the abusing employee or student but also to others within the college community. The following are general descriptions of some of the health risks associated with substance abuse from the National Institute of Drug Abuse website at <http://www.drugabuse.gov>:

#### ***Alcohol***

Loss of concentration and judgment; slowed reflexes; disorientation leading to higher risk of accidents and problem behavior; risk of liver and heart damage, malnutrition, cancer and other illnesses; can be highly addictive to some persons.

#### ***Amphetamines***

Can cause rushed, careless behavior and pushing beyond your physical capacity leading to exhaustion; tolerance increases rapidly; causes physical and psychological dependence; withdrawal can result in depression and suicide; continued high doses can cause heart problems, infections, malnutrition and death.

#### ***Cannabis***

Can cause permanent damage to lungs, reproductive organs and brain function; slows reflexes; increases forgetfulness; alters judgment of space and distance.

#### ***Cocaine***

Causes damage to respiratory and immune systems; induces malnutrition, seizures and loss of brain function. Some forms (such as "crack") are highly addictive.

#### ***Hallucinogens (PCP, LSD, Ecstasy)***

Cause extreme distortions of what's seen and heard; induces sudden changes in behavior, loss of concentration and memory; increases risk of birth defects in user's children; overdose can cause psychosis, convulsions, coma and death. Frequent use can cause permanent loss of mental function.

#### ***Inhalants (Nitrous Oxide, Amyl Nitrite, Butyl Nitrite, Chlorohydrocarbons, Hydrocarbons)***

Cause nausea, dizziness, fatigue, slurred speech, hallucinations or delusions; may lead to rapid and irregular heart rhythms, heart failure and death; long-term use may result in loss of feeling, hearing and vision; can result in permanent damage to the brain, heart, lungs, liver and kidneys.

#### ***Narcotics (Heroin, Morphine, Opium, Codeine)***

Highly addictive; tolerance increases rapidly; cause physical and psychological dependence; overdose can cause coma, convulsions, respiratory arrest and death; leads to malnutrition, infection and hepatitis. Sharing needles is a leading cause of the spread of HIV and hepatitis.

### **Sedatives**

Tolerance increases rapidly; produces physical and psychological dependence; cause reduced reaction time and confusion; overdoses can cause coma, respiratory arrest, convulsions and death; withdrawal can be dangerous; in combination with other controlled substances can quickly cause coma and death.

### **Signs of Substance Abuse**

Signs of substance abuse include:

- Sudden change in behavior
- Mood swings—irritable and grumpy and then suddenly happy and bright
- Withdrawal from family members
- Careless about personal grooming
- Loss of interest in hobbies, sports, and other favorite activities
- Changed sleeping pattern—up at night and sleeps during the day
- Red or glassy eyes
- Stuffy or runny nose

### **Drug & Alcohol Program Review**

South Hills reviews its Drug/Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program biennially. The purpose of the review is to:

- Determine the effectiveness and implement changes to the program if needed
- Ensure that the disciplinary sanctions described in the program are consistently enforced

The Drug Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Director of Regulatory Affairs, and Director meet on or about July 1, biennially to discuss documented instances where the Drug/Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program has been violated. A biennial review of State College's Drug/Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program was conducted to assess the current program and make recommendations for improvement, if needed.

There has been no report of drug or alcohol violations during the past three years. Therefore, no assessment can be made to determine if the program and sanctions at South Hills are effective. However, we cannot assume that no incidents are a direct correlation to our Drug/Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program, so we will continue our efforts in creating awareness in our fight against drug and alcohol abuse.