

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT RECOVERY FROM CHEMICAL DEPENDENCIES**

Drafted by a Subcommittee of the  
College of Pharmacy's Executive Committee.  
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*Preamble and Section 4, 7 & 8 Revisions Approved by the Executive Committee: February 21, 2012*

### **Preamble**

These policies and procedures are applicable to any student enrolled in the various academic programs at the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. This includes undergraduate students in the B.S. in the Pharmaceutical Sciences program, professional students in the Pharm.D. program, or graduate students in the M.S. and Ph.D. programs. Assistance relating to these policies and procedures is available in the Office of Student Affairs (room 150 Parks Hall) or the Graduate Studies Office (room 217 Parks Hall). The University Counseling & Consultation Service (fourth floor of the Younkin Success Center or PAES Building) is both a resource for students and the primary referral group for the application of these policies and procedures.

### **Section 1. Position Statement**

The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy:

- Recognizes that chemical dependency (including alcoholism) is a disease that affects all of society.
- Accepts responsibility for the development and dissemination of policies which prohibit the misuse of drugs (including alcohol) by students enrolled in the College.
- Wishes to provide support for chemically-dependent students to move toward recovery.
- Advocates referral of chemically dependent students to the University's Counseling and Consultation Services and other support programs including pharmacist rehabilitation organizations for appropriate evaluation and referral for treatment.
- Acknowledges the need for cooperation with the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy wherever public safety may be endangered by impaired students.
- Accepts responsibility for providing professional education concerning chemical dependency disease in entry-level programs of the College.
- Encourages participation in public education and prevention programs concerning chemical dependency diseases.
- Accepts responsibility for restricting alcohol or illicit drug use and promotions within the College.

### **Section 2. General Goals for Student Recovery from Chemical Dependencies**

The College can:

1. Provide compassionate assistance for chemically dependent students or those affected by chemical dependencies.
2. Provide assistance in a way that protects the rights of the chemically-dependent individual to receive

treatment in confidence.

3. Afford recovering students, who are not legally restricted and are no longer chemically dependent, the opportunity to continue their pharmacy education without stigma or penalty when deemed appropriate.
4. Work with the student and State Board of Pharmacy when appropriate to help ensure that chemically-impaired students do not practice pharmacy when public safety could be jeopardized.
5. Participate in the development of curricular content and other educational opportunities which address the societal impact of chemical dependency as a disease state, public education efforts concerning chemical dependency, campus issues concerning responsible use of potentially addicting or harmful substances, and the development of wellness programs intended to promote healthy lifestyles in students.

### **Section 3. Definitions**

As used in these Policies and Procedures, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. Chemical dependence or impairment shall mean a chronic, progressive illness which involves the use of alcohol or other drugs to a degree that it interferes in the functional life of an individual as manifested by health, family, job, legal, academic, financial or emotional problems.
2. Chemically dependent student shall mean a student whose use of alcohol or other drugs diminishes or affects his or her ability to perform the duties of his or her profession to an extent likely to be harmful to the public health, safety, or welfare or threatens the student's normal academic progression.
3. Drug shall mean a chemical substance alone, or in combination, including alcohol.
4. The College's policies and procedures for assisting chemically-dependent students as authorized by the Dean and faculty of the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy constitute the dissemination of information relating to chemical dependency and referral for evaluation and treatment of chemically impaired pharmacy students. This does not obviate the College's responsibility to protect public safety and, therefore, maintain disciplinary options (including student dismissal) when dictated by student behavior.

### **Section 4. College Interventions/Student Referrals**

The College administration has the authority to take necessary steps to address illegal or prohibited conduct. College policy and procedures will typically utilize the University's Counseling and Consultation Services as its primary referral for chemically-dependent students or those affected by this disease. When a student is found to be in violation of these policies, he or she may be required to sign a release to allow feedback and consultation with the College of Pharmacy; and Counseling and Consultation Services, in consultation with College personnel as appropriate, may require any action (e.g., drug screens) deemed necessary in an individualized treatment plan as a condition of continued enrollment. The Counseling and Consultation Service may also wish to involve the Ohio Pharmacist Rehabilitation Organization (PRO) to participate in the evaluation, intervention, and rehabilitation of pharmacy students. Students may also seek assistance directly from University Counseling and Consultation Services, the Student Health Center or other assistance programs for chemical dependency.

### **Section 5. Assisting the chemically-impaired student.**

1. University expertise for assisting chemically-impaired students (e.g., Counseling and Consultation Services) shall serve as the primary resource for students. College of Pharmacy resources for assisting chemically-dependent students also exist in Student Affairs as well as with the student's

faculty advisor.

2. Incoming students will receive information concerning the College's policies and procedures for chemical dependency in orientation materials.

### **Section 6. Students Affected by Chemical Dependencies.**

Chemical dependency in a family member or significant other will often impede a student's academic progress. Therefore, this impact is recognized by the College as requiring similar programmatic considerations and policies and procedures as for those who are chemically dependent. Treatment and assistance services are available to the affected student in the same manner as those for chemically dependent individuals.

### **Section 7. Disciplinary Procedures Relating to Student Impairment**

One of the most serious offenses with which pharmacy students may become involved is the misuse and/or dependence upon dangerous drugs including alcohol. The College of Pharmacy views the admitted or proven personal abuse of such drugs, their transmittal or sale to other individuals, or the use of drug documents to illegally obtain controlled or legend drugs, as cause for possible dismissal from the pharmacy program for professional/ethical reasons. In addition, Ohio law and the University's Code of Student Conduct will be invoked when appropriate.

However, the College also accepts the responsibility to support students in their recovery from chemical dependencies and will afford recovering students who are not legally restricted and no longer chemically-impaired the opportunity to continue their education without stigma or penalty and with reasonable accommodations when deemed appropriate based on their academic performance and disciplinary record. These decisions will be made by the College's Executive Committee in consultation with qualified professionals from the University's Counseling and Consultation Services and others as appropriate.

### **SECTION 8. POLICIES FOR ALCOHOL USE IN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy respects the rights of individuals to consume alcohol in a legal and responsible manner. The College's policy and regulations concerning alcohol use are intended to promote personal responsibility in regard to an individual's decisions concerning alcohol use or abstinence. It is expected that these decisions will be based on personal values and social responsibility and conform to the laws and regulations of the Ohio State University, the State of Ohio, and the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy. Pharmacists and pharmacy students who choose to use alcohol should be aware that they are held fully responsible for their actions by the State Board of Pharmacy. The Board has the authority to revoke licensure due to irresponsible use of alcohol.

#### **Policies**

1. All Ohio laws, City of Columbus ordinances, and components of the University's Code of Student Conduct relating to the use of alcohol must be adhered to at all times.
2. No alcoholic beverages may be served at student events within the College.
3. No alcoholic beverages are permitted to be consumed in University vehicles.
4. Advertisements or announcements for events which include an allusion to alcohol are not permitted to be displayed within the College.
5. Non-alcoholic beverages and food should be provided at any event where alcoholic beverages are available.

6. Party sponsors are responsible for assuring that only persons of legal age shall be served alcoholic beverages.
7. College of Pharmacy policies and procedures for student recovery from chemical dependence have been approved by the faculty. A copy is available in this manual and in the Office of Student Affairs. These include resources for students who may have a problem relating to alcohol or other drug dependencies.