

# **Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

## **Boston-Campus**

**90 Warren Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119**



## **Drug-Free Schools and Communities**

### **Regulations – Compliance Policy**

**2023**

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## **POLICY ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE**

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS), South Hamilton campus is in compliance with the Drug-Free School and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 (Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Regulations, also known as "Part 86," is taken from the Federal Register [Vol. 55, No. 159, Thursday, August 16, 1990, pp. 33580-33601]) relating to the illegal use of alcohol and drugs.

### **POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING ACT.**

GCTS seeks to provide a safe setting and to protect the public health for all members of the seminary community by securing a drug-free environment in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Regulations of 1989 (Federal Law). The law declares that students and employees have the right to study and work in a setting free from the effects of drug or alcohol abuse. The principles of GCTS tradition and Community Life Statement is to train men and women for ministry. So, we adopt the policies that deal with illegal and abusive use of alcohol or narcotics to comply with the law.

### **SEMINARY POLICY PROHIBITS:**

- The use, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale of illegal drugs, controlled substances (including marijuana), drug paraphernalia, or alcoholic beverages on seminary premises. In Seminary-supplied vehicles or at any official function or seminary activity.
- Smoking (tobacco use). We are a smoke-free campus. Consequently, smoking is not permitted in any on-campus buildings, on seminary grounds, or in connection with any seminary-sponsored activity or any off-campus classrooms.
- The use of alcoholic beverages or drugs, that adversely affects a student's academic performance in the preparation or practice of ministry; or adversely affects an employee's work performance, which poses a threat to the safety of students or employees; or adversely affects the seminary's reputation on the part of students or employees.

### **PROCEDURES OBSERVED IN CASES OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR VIOLATION OF THE POLICIES:**

**1) Students** — Referral for investigation of possible abuse will be with the Boston Judicial Committee. Reference may come from several sources, such as residence life coordinators, fellowstudents, faculty or staff members, spouses, area clergy, Campus

Safety officers. Please consult the Student Handbook (on the Hamilton website) for Procedure related to Disciplinary Action.

**2) Faculty** — the process-involving faculty shall follow the Faculty Handbook.

**3) Staff** — the process for staff and administration is contained in a separate statement and is available in the Human Resources Office as part of the Staff Handbook.

## **SUMMARY OF LEGAL SANCTIONS COVERING ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE**

Local, state, and federal laws make illegal use of drugs and alcohol serious crimes. Convictions can lead to imprisonment, fines, and assigned community service. Courts do not reduce prison sentences for convicted persons to attend a school or continue their jobs. A felony conviction for such an offense can prevent an individual from entering many fields of employment or professions.

Cities and towns in Massachusetts, specifically Hamilton, prohibit public consumption of alcohol and impose fines for violation. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) also prohibits public use of alcohol in its parks around Boston.

Massachusetts law prohibits the sale or delivery of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 with a fine of up to \$2,000 and six months' imprisonment or both.

Misrepresenting one's age or falsifying an identification to obtain alcoholic beverages is punishable by a fine of \$300. The first conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol has a \$1,000 fine, one-year revocation of driver's license, up to two years in prison and mandatory alcohol rehabilitation.

Massachusetts has criminal penalties for the use of controlled substances, or drugs, with penalties varying with the type of drug. In general, narcotic, addictive, and drugs with a high potential for abuse have more penalties that are substantial. Possession of drugs is illegal without valid authorization. While penalties for possession, and distribution of narcotics, are generally not as significant as for drug manufacturing. The possession of a large quantity may be considered distribution.

## **MASSACHUSETTS CAMPUSES – REGARDING MARIJUANA**

Even though the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has decriminalized marijuana use in the state, and effect further changes on July 1, 2018. Marijuana remains a Schedule I narcotic under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. As such, GCTS prohibits the use of marijuana (medical and recreational) cultivation, possession on the campuses, so that the institution may remain in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

Under state and federal laws, penalties for possession, manufacture, and distribution are more significant for second and subsequent convictions. Many laws dictate mandatory prison terms, and the full minimum time served. The sale and possession of "drug paraphernalia" are illegal in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts makes it illegal to be in a place where heroin is and to be "in the company" of a person known to possess heroin. Anyone in any context where heroin is present risks a serious drug conviction.

Persons convicted of drug possession under state or federal law are ineligible for federal student grants and loans for up to one year after the first conviction. Five years after the second, third conviction may result in indefinite ineligibility. The penalty for distributing drugs is loss of benefits for five years after the first, ten years after the second, permanently after the third conviction.

Under federal law, distribution of drugs to persons under age 21 is punishable by twice the usual penalty with a mandatory one year in prison. A third conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment. These penalties apply to the distribution of drugs in or within 1,000 feet of a college (seminary) or school. Federal law sets greatly heightened prison sentences for manufacture and distribution of drugs if death or severe injury from use of the substance.

## **HEALTH RISKS AND THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL**

Alcohol consumption causes several marked changes in behavior. Even in low doses, it significantly impairs the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increases the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairment in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects just described. Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence.

Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life-threatening. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol, particularly when combined with inadequate nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver.

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. Besides, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at higher risk of becoming alcoholics.

## **HEALTH RISKS AND THE EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA (CANNABIS)**

Marijuana use may have a wide range of risks and effects, both physical and mental. Marijuana use is also linked to other mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. However, the study has mixed findings.

### **Physical Effects**

- Breathing problems.
- An increased heart rate.
- Problems with child development, during and after pregnancy.
- Intense nausea and vomiting.

### **Mental Effects**

Long-term marijuana use linked to mental illness in some people, such as:

- Temporary hallucinations
- Temporary paranoia
- Worsening symptoms in patients with schizophrenia—a severe mental disorder with symptoms such as hallucinations, fear, and disorganized thinking

## **LOCAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG RESOURCES**

Boston Drug Treatment Centers

71 Commercial Street,

Boston MA 02109

<http://www.bostondrugtreatmentcenters.com>

617-517-6448

CAB Health & Recovery Services, Inc.

Detoxification Unit

111 Middleton Road,

Danvers, MA 01923

978-777-2121 <http://www.cabhrs.org>

CAB Health and Recovery Services

110 Green Street,

Lynn, MA, 01902

781-593-9434

CAB Health and Recovery Services, Inc.

800 West Cummings Park,

Woburn, MA, 01801

781-935-3025

NAMI Massachusetts

The Schrafft Center

529 Main Street, Suite 1M17

Boston MA 02129

<http://www.nami.org/Local-NAMI?state=MA>

617-580-8541

Project Cope

117 N Common Street,

Lynn, MA 01902

781-581-9270 <http://www.projectcope.com>

**BIENNIALPROGRAM REVIEW**

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Regulations requires that every two years (on even-numbered years) the Seminary conduct an audit of the effectiveness of their Drug-Free Schools and Communities program. To determine the effectiveness of the above stated Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program, GCTS has established a Drug-Free Schools and Communities Review Team.

The team convenes biennially during the summer, to review programs, practices, and policies. Besides, new or changing laws related to the Clery Act suggest modifications, if needed, to the current program.

**Members of This Team Are:**

- Campus Operations Manager/Campus Safety Administrator
- Director of Bruce Jackson Memorial Library
- Director of Counseling and Academic Support Initiatives & Assistant Professor of Counseling

Note: From time to time, others may be invited to attend the annual review meeting as deemed appropriate — a program review completed on September 2, 2018.

- A record of the current plan, related programs, and statistics related to any incidents, and compliance with this policy, plus the biennial findings of this audit team is on file in the Campus Safety office. All records of disciplinary actions or counseling sessions related to drug and Alcohol abuse are confidential. The filing of these records is in the Student Life Services office, Department of Public Safety, Campus Safety, or Human Resources as appropriate.

**DISTRIBUTION OF DRUG-FREESCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES REGULATIONS INFORMATION**

The following program is in place to ensure the required contribution of the policy to every faculty, staff, and students each year. By providing a link to the official Web site of the Office of Safe and Healthy Students. The link is: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ose/index.html>

**Each Year**, before October 1, Campus Safety sends out an email to all faculty, staff, and students. This email reminds them of the Seminary's position of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and communities Policy. Since all faculty, staff, and students have access to email, this meets the minimum requirement.

Hard Copies of GCTS Drug-Free Schools and Communities Regulations Policy are available from the Department of Public Safety, Campus Safety upon request.



## **ENFORCEMENT**

The enforcement of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Regulations as put forth in the program and the Seminary policies, rest primarily with Human Resources, Student Life Services, and the Department of Public Safety, Campus Safety. However, the Seminary assumes that each faculty, staff, and student who voluntarily becomes part of the GCTS community agrees to abide by its Standards of Conduct and Community Life Statement.