



# Drug-Free Schools and Communities Regulations

*Drug-Free Schools and Communities Regulations -  
Compliance Policy*  
South Hamilton Campus

Updated: October 1, 2025

# Index

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Page</b>
Policy on Drug and Alcohol Abuse	3
Policy Statement regarding this act	3
Seminary Policy Prohibits	3
Procedures observed in cases of suspected abuse or violation of the above policies	4
Summary of Legal Sanctions Covering Alcohol and Drug Abuse	4
Health Risks and the Effects of Alcohol	5
Health Risks and the Effects of Marijuana (Cannabis)	6
Local Alcohol and Drug Resources	6
Biennial Review of the Program	8
Distribution of Drug-Free Schools and Communities Regulations Information	9
Enforcement	9

## **Policy on Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton campus is in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act [DFSCA] Amendment of 1989 (Drug and Alcohol 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.

### **Following is a policy statement regarding this act.**

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary 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. In keeping with the principles outlined in our Community Life Statement and our Christian tradition as a theological seminary, which prepares men and women for Christian ministry, the following policies dealing with the illegal and abusive use of alcohol or drugs are adopted in compliance with the law.

### **Seminary policy prohibits the following:**

1. The use, possession, manufacture, distribution, or sale of illegal drugs, controlled substances (including marijuana), or drug paraphernalia on seminary premises, in Seminary-supplied vehicles, or at any official function or seminary activity.
2. 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 in any off-campus offices or classrooms.
3. The use, possession, manufacture, distribution, or sale of alcoholic beverages on seminary premises, in seminary-supplied vehicles, or at any official function or seminary activity.
4. Being under the influence of an unauthorized controlled substance, illegal drug, or alcohol on seminary premises, in seminary-supplied vehicles, or at any official function or seminary activity.
5. The use of alcoholic beverages or drugs that adversely affects a student's academic performance, preparation for ministry, or practice of ministry, or that adversely affects an employee's work performance, or that is a threat to individual safety on the part of students or employees, or that adversely affects the seminary's reputation in the public arena on the part of students or employees.

**The following procedures will be observed in cases of suspected abuse or violation of the above policies:**

I. Students

Referral for investigation of possible abuse will be made to the Dean of Students. Referral may come from a number of sources, such as residence life coordinators, fellow-students, faculty or staff members, spouses, area clergy, Campus Safety officers, etc. Procedure for Disciplinary Action will be observed (this may be found in the Student Handbook).

II. Faculty

The process-involving faculty shall follow the Faculty Handbook.

III. 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 in order for convicted persons to attend school or continue their jobs. A felony conviction for such an offense can prevent you 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 consumption of alcohol in its parks around Boston.

Massachusetts law prohibit sale or delivery of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 with a fine of up to \$2,000 and 6 months imprisonment, or both.

Misrepresenting one's age or falsifying an identification to obtain alcoholic beverages is punishable by a fine of \$300. 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 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 heavier penalties. Possession of drugs is illegal without valid authorization. While

penalties for possession are generally not as great as for manufacture and distribution of drugs, possession of a relatively large quantity may be considered distribution.

**Massachusetts campuses please note relative to marijuana: Even though the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has decriminalized marijuana use in the state and as further changes went into effect on July 1, 2018, marijuana remains a Schedule I narcotic under the Federal Controlled Substances Act, and as such, marijuana (medical and recreational) cultivation, possession or use is strictly prohibited on the campuses of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary 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 much greater for second and subsequent convictions. Many laws dictate mandatory prison terms and the full minimum term must be served.

Sale and possession of “drug paraphernalia” is illegal in Massachusetts.

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; the penalty for distributing drugs is loss of benefits for five years after the first, 10 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 normal penalty with a mandatory one year in prison; a third conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment. These penalties apply to 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 serious injury from use of the substance.

## **Health Risks and the Effects of Alcohol**

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even 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 poor nutrition, also can 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. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than other youngsters 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.

### **Physical Effects**

- Breathing problems
- Increased heart rate
- Problems with child development during and after pregnancy
- Intense nausea and vomiting

### **Mental Effects**

Long-term marijuana use has been 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, paranoia, and disorganized thinking

Marijuana use also has been linked to other mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts among teens. However, study findings have been mixed.

## **Local Alcohol and Drug Resources**

### **Danvers Treatment Center//CAB Health & Recovery**

111 Middleton Road, Danvers, MA 01923  
978-777-2121; <http://www.nebhealth.org/>

### **Bridgwell**

117 N Common Street, Lynn, MA 01902  
781-581-9270; <http://www.projectcope.com>

### **Lahey Health Behavioral Services**

110 Green Street, Lynn, MA, 01902  
781-593-9434; <https://sobernation.com/listing/lahey-health-behavioral-services-tss-lynn-ma/>

## **McLean Hospital**

115 Mill St, Belmont, MA 02478

800-333-0338, <https://www.mcleanhospital.org/treatment/smhp>

## **Beth Israel Lahey Health (Behavioral Services)**

### **Addiction Treatment**

From outpatient counseling to treatment-focused halfway houses, Beth Israel Lahey Health (BILH) offers a full range of addiction treatment programs for adults and teens. Their expert and compassionate staff really care about helping you or your loved one to learn the skills to get sober and live a healthier, happier life. BILH accept most insurances, including Medicare and Medicaid — as well as most major credit cards. To ask about admission, call the specific program's phone number (below).

### **Outpatient Counseling and Group Therapy**

Outpatient Counseling – Substance use counseling and group therapy for adults and teens.  
Court Services\* – A range of outpatient, court-ordered programs, including Operating Under the Influence (OUI) and court evaluations. Call 978-921-1190.

### **The Discover Program, Addison-Gilbert Hospital, Gloucester, MA**

The Discover program is a structured daily addictions treatment program for adults, providing education and relapse prevention skills, with five treatment groups each day from 9am to 3pm. The program is licensed by the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services. For referrals/admission, call 978-816-2812.

### **Opioid Treatment Program**

Medication-assisted treatment for men and women who are dependent on heroin or prescription opioids such as Vicodin or Fentanyl. Some walk-in hours. Call each clinic for details.  
Danvers: 978-777-2121, option 3  
Gloucester: 978-283-0296, ext. 213

### **Detoxification Treatment**

Acute treatment settings that provide detoxification from drugs and alcohol in a medical setting. Click on links to download brochures.

Boston Treatment Center – 617-247-1001, Fax: 617-266-3144

Danvers Treatment Center – 978-777-2121, Fax: 978-774-4814

Tewksbury Treatment Center – 978-259-7000, Fax: 978.259-7028.

### **Residential Treatment**

**Clinical Stabilization Services (CSS)** – A residential post-detoxification treatment program for men and women in recovery from addiction to drugs and alcohol, call 978-739-7621. Fax: 978.774.4814

**H.A.R.T. House** (women and children only) – Residential treatment for women and their children, including individual, family and group therapy, relapse prevention, parenting education and access/referral to community resources. Call 978-851-0969, Fax: 978-851-0998

**The Ryan House** – Treatment-focused halfway house for men and women.  
Call 781-593-9434, ext. 226, Fax: 781-598-0276

Worried that a young person in your life is struggling with substance use?

**Team Fourteen** – A new substance use treatment service for adolescents that provides free individual, family and group treatment to Essex County youth and their families.  
Call 978-867-7137

**Transitional Support Services (TSS)** Post-detoxification home for men. Includes individual and group therapy, 12-step and self-help meetings, case management, aftercare planning, and referral

Lynn: 781-593-9434, Fax: 781-598-0276  
Tewksbury: 978-856-4280, Fax: 978-856-4299

## **Biennial Review of the Program**

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, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary has established a Drug-Free Schools and Communities Review Team. This team meets biennially during the summer months to conduct a review of current programs, practices, policies, any new or changing laws related to this act, and to suggest modifications to the current program, if needed.

Members of this team are:

- Dean of Students
- Housing Coordinator

*Note: From time to time others may be invited to attend the annual review meeting as deemed appropriate.*

A review of the program was completed on July 1, 2025

A record of the current plan, related programs, statistics related to any incidents, and compliance with this policy, plus the biennial findings of this Audit team is kept on file in the Student Life office.

All records of disciplinary actions and/or counseling sessions related to drug and alcohol abuse are kept in the confidential files of Student Life Services, Gordon Poice, or Human Resources as appropriate.

## **Distribution of Drug-Free Schools and Communities Regulations information**

The following program is in place to ensure the required distribution of the policy to every faculty, staff, and student each year.

- By providing a link to the official Web site of the Office of Safe and Healthy Students: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/index.html>
- Each year, by October 1st Gordon-Conwell sends out an email to all faculty, staff, and students, reminding them of the Seminary's position on Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities. Since all faculty, staff, and students have access to email, this meets the minimum requirement of informing annually all faculty, staff, and students about the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Policy.
- Hard copies of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's Drug-Free Schools and Communities Regulations Policy are available from the Student Life Department upon request.

## **Enforcement**

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