

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Consistent with the guidelines provided by the Virginia State Council of Higher Education, it shall be the policy of New River Community College to find intolerable the illegal possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of drugs or other controlled substances by students or employees of the college. All actions consistent with the law and individual privacy rights will be taken by NRCC to eliminate the illegal use or abuse of drugs and alcohol on campus and to deal firmly, though fairly, with individuals found in violation of Virginia's statutes and federal laws pertaining to such substances. The policy focuses upon the elements of enforcement, education and counseling, and referral.

The use or sale of illegal substances is a crime. The sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 is prohibited. NRCC will cooperate with law enforcement authorities in enforcing current statutes. Students are further warned that illegal involvement with drugs or alcohol on campus will result in disciplinary action by the college above and beyond any criminal penalties. The disciplinary action may include suspension or dismissal from the college.

The college's established procedure for student discipline would be applied to any student suspected of violating this drug and alcohol policy. If a suspected student is found guilty of the offense, the student would be subject to the following action:

1. Dismissal from the college for being found guilty of selling illegal substances on campus;
2. Suspension for being found guilty of the possession of illegal drugs on campus;
3. Suspension for a student found guilty of the unauthorized possession of alcohol on campus;
4. Suspension or probation period to be determined by the Judiciary Panel for a student who is in possession of alcohol on campus and/or exhibits unruly or disorderly conduct on the campus.
5. Appropriate action will be taken when a student receives due process through the NRCC judiciary system.