

Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan Policy

Policy Statement of Purpose

Gwynedd Mercy University is committed to providing a living/learning community that employs educational processes to promote the health and safety of all students and sustain a climate conducive to their personal growth and development. Student wellness is of primary concern. Therefore, the Medical Amnesty Policy has been developed to reduce harmful alcohol and other related drug effects. When students decide to drink or engage in drug use, the University expects that they do so in a responsible and legal manner. However, the University recognizes that there may be times when students experience severe intoxication or serious injury relating to alcohol, cannabis, and/or other drug use. Under those circumstances, Gwynedd Mercy University expects students to call for medical assistance. The University is committed to ensuring that all situations are handled with competence and compassion and prioritize safety over policy violation.

Policy

Gwynedd Mercy University strongly encourages students to seek and use medical assistance for themselves or others during emergency situations when they are dangerously under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or drugs. No student seeking medical treatment for themselves, others, or accepting medical treatment as a result of a Good Samaritan report, for the effects of cannabis, alcohol, or other drug use, will be subject to University discipline for violating the Alcohol or Other Drug policy. Medical Amnesty may be granted to an intoxicated student; however, the student will be required to complete the necessary requirements (outlined below) including participating in the University's R.A.I.S.E. (Reducing Alcohol Incidents through Student Education) program.

Description of Emergency Situations

- All students are strongly encouraged to call for assistance (i.e. Public Safety, Resident Assistant, 911, etc.) for themselves or others during situations where they are dangerously under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Signs and/or symptoms of excessive alcohol consumption may include, but are not limited to:
 - Vomiting
 - Confusion, stupor
 - Slow or irregular breathing
 - Low body temperature
 - Unconsciousness (Passing Out)
- Signs and/or symptoms of cannabis overdose may include, but are not limited to:
 - Frequent vomiting
 - Psychiatric response: panic attacks, hallucinations, or paranoia
 - Uncontrollable shaking or seizures
 - Unresponsiveness
 - Chest pain
 - Sudden high blood pressure with headache
- Signs and/or symptoms of other drugs may include, but are not limited to:
 - Unresponsiveness
 - Severe abdominal cramping
 - Difficulty or labored breathing

- Seizures
- Blue or pale skin
- Blood pressure or body temperature extremes

In some cases, an individual may not display “classic signs and/or symptoms.” However, if a student suspects someone may have consumed an excessive amount of alcohol, cannabis, and/or other drugs, they should err on the side of caution and seek emergency assistance.

Requirements for Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan:

To qualify for Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan, a student must:

1. Seek and use medical attention at the time of the incident or receive medical attention as a result of a Medical/Amnesty Good Samaritan report.
2. Contact Residence Life professional staff or the Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students within 48 hours to schedule an appointment concerning the incident.
3. Meet with Residence Life professional staff or the Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students within 5-7 days of the incident;
4. Comply with the conditions set forth during the meeting with the Residence Life professional staff or the Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students and within the given timeframe. The student will be required to participate in the University’s R.A.I.S.E. Program and must complete the program within the timeframe established by the University AOD Counselor.

A student fulfilling all the required conditions set forth above will not be subject to an Alcohol or Other Drug policy violation under the Student Code of Conduct. However, if the above stipulations are not followed, medical amnesty will not be granted and the student is subject to the conduct process as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

Important Policy Limitations

The Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan policy does not preclude Gwynedd Mercy University from taking disciplinary action for other Student Code of Conduct violations that may be associated with the situation, i.e., vandalism, theft, physical or sexual assault, etc. In addition, law enforcement agencies may act within their jurisdictions in enforcing the laws enacted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any other state where jurisdiction may be invoked.

Nature of Protection/Shield

The Gwynedd Mercy University Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan Policy is not intended to shield or protect those students who repeatedly violate the Code of Conduct. In cases where repeated violations of the Gwynedd Mercy University’s Code of Conduct occurs, the University reserves the right to take disciplinary action on a case by case basis regardless of the manner in which the incident was reported. Institutional Discretion Statement Gwynedd Mercy University will have final discretion/authority to determine whether a student will receive Medical Amnesty.