

## Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Procedure

### **Policy:**

Unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance or alcohol is prohibited while in the workplace, at any official function sponsored by the College, or on all college premises except in those college facilities approved for renting to the public for functions and where the distribution and use of alcohol have been approved. Any employee or any student violating this policy is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination/expulsion and referral for prosecution.

### **Alcohol:**

It is against the law for any person under the age of 21 to purchase or possess any alcoholic beverage (General Statutes § 18B-302)

### **General Rules Pertaining to Student Alcohol Use and Possession:**

1. No student may purchase, possess, or consume any alcoholic beverage anywhere on South Piedmont Community College property or at any time at any college function (on or off campus).
2. Students may not sell or give alcoholic beverages to anyone on South Piedmont Community College.
3. No student activity fee or other South Piedmont Community College collected fee shall be used to purchase alcohol for use either on or off campus.

*Health Risks of Alcohol Abuse:* Alcohol is immediately absorbed by the bloodstream upon consumption, physically affecting the entire body. Some short term effects caused by excessive alcohol consumption include decreased heart rate, headaches, nausea and vomiting. Drinking large amounts of alcohol can result in alcohol poisoning, which causes one to lose consciousness and possibly even results in death. Long term effects of alcohol include high blood pressure, depressed immune system, vitamin deficiencies, central nervous system damage, liver disease, and cancer.

*Health Risks of Drug Abuse:* Recreational drug use can have potentially harmful side effects that can result in serious and long-term health issues. High doses of many drugs can even cause immediate life-threatening health problems such as respiratory failure, heart attack, or coma. It is especially dangerous to combine drugs with each other.

*Alcohol and Drug Education/Prevention Program:* South Piedmont Community College counselors are available on the L.L. Polk and Old Charlotte Highway campuses in the Student Services area. Students in need of counseling, treatment, and/or rehabilitation will be referred to local mental health centers on a confidential basis. It will be the student's decision, however, whether to seek assistance with such problems. Alcohol/drug assistance, which occurs through services provided by other agencies at their organizational sites, will be at the student's expense. South Piedmont Community College pledges full support to these and other community agencies in our fight to rid our schools of controlled substances. If you do not feel comfortable visiting a counselor, please seek help by calling the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration's (SAMHSA) hotline at 800.662.HELP (4357).

## Smoking / Tobacco-Free Campus Policy

South Piedmont Community College recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for all students, employees, visitors, and college facilities. No student, employee, or college visitor is permitted to use any tobacco product or any comparable smoking or personal vapor-generating device, such as e-cigarettes, at any time, including during non-college hours,

- In any building, facility, or vehicle owned or leased by South Piedmont Community College
- On any campus grounds or property – including athletic fields and parking lots, owned or leased by South Piedmont Community College
- At any College-sponsored or College-related event, on or off campus.

## Firearms and Other Dangerous Weapons Policy and Procedure

### Policy:

South Piedmont Community College provides a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Therefore, any unauthorized possession of a firearm or any other dangerous weapon, as defined in North Carolina General Statutes § 14-269.2, may result in disciplinary action.

### Procedure:

Unauthorized possession of a firearm or any other dangerous weapon, as defined in North Carolina General Statutes §14-269.2, may result in the following actions:

1. The College may file charges under North Carolina General Statutes §14-269.2.
2. Any student who violates this provision may be expelled from the college for a period of not less than one year.
3. Violation of this provision by any employee may be considered a breach of the terms and conditions of employment.
4. Action may follow in accordance with the college's personnel or student due process procedures.

## Inclement Weather

SPCC ensures the safety of students and employees by implementing a policy and procedure to be observed during inclement weather and other exigent conditions. When these conditions occur on days of scheduled classes and/or events, South Piedmont Community College will post announcements of closings or delays on the College website, area television stations, via the College's mass notification system, and through South Piedmont Community College's email system. Any decisions to close or delay college classes and/or events will be posted as early as the situation permits.

At all times, students and employees should use sound judgment when making travel decisions. Additionally, they should exercise caution when traveling to and from campus during periods of Inclement weather.

**\*\* Although the campuses may be closed, online classes continue!** Each on-campus class has a Moodle site and make up work for missed classes should be completed through Moodle. When the campus is closed, students should log in to their classes to avoid falling behind.