

DRUID COLLEGE

Crafting sacred relationship to the land, the people, and the gods

Substance Use and Awareness Policy

Druid College is committed to providing a physically, psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually safe and inclusive environment for students, staff, volunteers, and guests as an integral part of crafting sacred relationships. This is a critical aspect of nemeton edge work as we strive to foster healthy communities.

The use of medicinal drugs is also integral to maintaining the health and wellbeing for many people in our communities. However, what constitutes a beneficial medicine or medically related practice for some people may in fact have detrimental psychosocial consequences for others within the same community. Physical proximity to and/or witnessing of certain kinds of substances or practices can become trigger events and/or traumatizing situations for those at-risk. We must craft a meaningful balance through collective awareness concerning the relationships between medical practices, mental and emotional wellbeing, and personal perspective within our community environments.

Policy Statement

This policy is intended to establish how the Druid College community (students, staff, volunteers, and guests) engage in ethical and honorable relationship with various substances during academic and sponsored social gatherings. Special emphasis is placed on addictive, psychoactive, psychotropic, and psychopharmaceutical agents, whether naturally or pharmacologically produced. Alcohol and nicotine products are also included as part of this discussion. These substances are utilized for medical (health regulation), recreational (consciousness alteration), and spiritual (entheogenic) uses. The **Points of Understanding** section below defines parameters regarding the appropriate use and dialog regarding medicinal drugs, agents, and substances.

Points of Understanding

- Druid College prohibits the use of illicit drugs, agents, and substances as defined by local, state, and federal law at all sponsored events, during class sessions (both in-person and virtual), and when students, volunteers, and staff explicitly represent Druid College in other venues.
- Be it known that although some medicinal substances (e.g., cannabis, psilocybin, etc.) have current legal status and medicinal protocols in some states, they are simultaneously considered illegal for personal use by the Federal government.
- Druid College prohibits the recreational or entheogenic use of any legal 'consciousness-altering substance' at sponsored events, during class sessions (both in-person and virtual), and when students, volunteers, and staff explicitly represent Druid College in other venues.

- The use of legal and medically authorized substances and nicotine products is NOT prohibited at Druid College sponsored events or during class sessions (both in-person and virtual). However, it is recommended that participants prepare ahead of time or wait for scheduled break periods. If there is an immediate medical need, participants must step away and/or turn off cameras during virtual activities. Onsite events will maintain a designated use area.
- The use of alcohol during Druid College class sessions, sponsored academic events, and class rituals is prohibited.
- The use of alcohol as part of Druid College sponsored public ritual events may occur under clearly defined circumstances and in accordance with local, state, and federal law. Personal responsibility applies in all situations.
- Druid College may integrate the discussion of entheogenic substance use and other medicinal practices as part of the routine academic study of ancestral history, shamanism, and herbalism. This may include discussion of scientific, spiritual, and social perspectives regarding the use of drugs during past and present times, but it will NOT constitute advocacy for the actual use of entheogenic and other medicinal substances.
- Druid College recognizes chemical dependency as endemic in many communities and that Recovery is an ongoing process needing sensitive support. We strive to foster such support by maintaining safe gathering spaces and by making unofficial referrals to professional community resources when warranted. Pastoral care referrals may also be made if requested.
- Druid College will include the **Substance Use and Awareness Policy** as part of the new student onboarding process. Students and volunteers must acknowledge the policy.
- Druid College will disseminate the **Substance Use and Awareness Policy** as contingent for the public's participation in sponsored events (e.g., The Weaving).
- Druid College is foremost about crafting sacred relationships. Communities must become more aware of how substance use of any kind affects others. This requires an understanding of not only our personal edges but also how our nemeton overlaps with the nemeta of others. A well-rounded understanding of nemeton work and empathy is vital for advancement to future studies at Druid College.

Sanctions

It is expected that all faculty, students, volunteers, and guests will acknowledge and comply with the **Substance Use and Awareness Policy**. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the faculty, program, and/or barring attendance at Druid College sponsored events.

Policy Effective Date: 1-20-2022