



## Biennial Review Report

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP)

Table of Contents

**Biennial Review Report** ..... 1

I. Executive Summary ..... 3

II. Introduction ..... 3

III. Policy Overview ..... 3

IV. Program Components..... 3

    1. Policy ..... 4

    2. Annual Distribution of Policy ..... 4

    3. Biennial Review Process..... 5

    4. Data Compilation ..... 5

    5. Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Substances: ..... 6

        a. Policy and Standards ..... 6

        b. Conduct ..... 6

        c. Alcohol..... 7

        d. Drugs ..... 8

        e. Health Risks ..... 9

        f. Sanctions ..... 10

        g. Remedies ..... 16

V. Additional Information to Maintain our Commitment..... 17

VI. Certification..... 18

## I. Executive Summary

This summary outlines the comprehensive biennial review conducted at Miami Regional University to assess the effectiveness of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program. The evaluation spans the academic years of 2022-2023 and 2023 -2024, with a primary focus on ensuring consistent adherence to applicable drug and alcohol-related statutes, ordinances, and institutional policies. The analysis of the data collected over the specified period indicates a commendable state of compliance and adherence within the MRU community. Noteworthy is the absence of any reported violations or sanctions related to drug and alcohol abuse during the evaluation years. The positive outcome reflects the efficacy of MRU's existing prevention strategies and underscores the commitment of the MRU community to maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Building upon the favorable findings, MRU has proactively incorporated new insights from the review into the updated DAAPP. To ensure compliance, MRU has established a clear timeline for the publication and distribution of the annual DAAPP and the biennial reports.

## II. Introduction

This report serves as the 2025 biennial review of Miami Regional University's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP) in compliance with The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) and EDGAR Part 86 of the Department's General Administration Regulations. This report covers the 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 academic years. The purpose of this review is to assess the effectiveness of our drug and alcohol prevention program, identify areas for improvement, and demonstrate our commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy campus environment.

## III. Policy Overview

Miami Regional University is dedicated to providing a drug-free and safe educational environment for its students, faculty, and staff. The university's DAAPP is designed to prohibit the illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol. The program emphasizes education, prevention, intervention and support services.

## IV. Program Components

In order to certify its compliance with EDGAR Part 86 Regulations, an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) must adopt and implement a drug prevention program to prevent the use of illicit drugs and alcohol abuse by students and employees, both on school premises and as part of any of its activities. Creating a program that complies with the Regulations requires the IHE to do the following:

- a. Prepare a written policy on alcohol and other drugs;
- b. Develop a sound method for distribution of the policy to every student and IHE staff members each year; and
- c. Prepare a biennial report on the effectiveness of its alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs and the consistency of policy enforcement.

The Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations require IHEs to review their AOD programs and policies every two years. The required review has two objectives:

- a. To determine the effectiveness of, and to implement any needed changes to, the AOD program; and
- b. To ensure that disciplinary sanctions for violating standards of conduct are enforced consistently.

## 1. Policy

The Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Prevention Program (DAAPP) is required to have a written statement about the institution's standards of conduct that prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on the property or as part of any of our activities; 34CFR§86.100(1). A written description of the applicable legal sanctions imposed under federal, state, and local laws and ordinances for unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol; 34 C.F.R. §86.100(2). A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and alcohol abuse; 34 C.F.R. §86.100(3). A description of any drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation/re-entry programs that are available to students and employees; 34 C.F.R. §86.100(4). Finally, a clear statement that the institution will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees for violations of the institution's code of conduct and a description of such sanction up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, for violations of the standards of conduct. For the purpose of this section, appropriate treatment program 34 C.F.R. §86.100(5).

Miami Regional University's Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Prevention Program (DAAPP) and current biennial Review can be found on the consumer information section of the MRU website (<https://mru.edu/consumer-information>) for everyone to review. The DAAPP is provided to all newly enrolling students, as well as, all new employees during onboarding.

## 2. Annual Distribution of Policy

- By November 1 of each year, MRU will provide to all students and employees an email confirming updated consumer information and disclosures.
- The annual notice was sent to all students and employees on October 31, by the Title IX Coordinator/Campus Safety Officer
- The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program Policy is :
  - provided to all new hires during the onboarding process
  - provided to all newly enrolled students
  - mentioned in the student and faculty handbook
  - mentioned in the employee handbook
  - included in the Policy & Procedure Manual
  - available in the consumer information section of the MRU website (<https://mru.edu/consumer-information>)



3. Biennial Review Process

This report was compiled by Mitsy Sousa, Campus Safety Officer / Title IX Coordinator. Departments and staff that contributed also include:

- a. Office of General Counsel
- b. Provost
- c. AVP of Financial Aid
- d. Senior Director of Academic Advising
- e. Manager of Compliance
- f. Building Superintendent

The established biennial report distribution deadline is by November 30th, every odd numbered year.

4. Data Compilation

Information from various departments and the local police department are gathered and analyzed. The information includes, but is not limited to, incident reports, disciplinary actions, and campus crime statistics (relating to drug or alcohol substance abuse).

Trends in substance abuse incidents will be analyzed to identify emerging issues. Patterns in student and employee behavior are monitored to tailor prevention strategies.

ARRESTS AND REFERRALS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION – STUDENTS:

Offense	Academic Year	Outcomes/ Action Taken
Liquor Law Arrest	2022	None
	2023	None
	2024	None
Liquor Law Referral	2022	None
	2023	None
	2024	None
Drug Violation Arrest	2022	None
	2023	None
	2024	None
Drug Violation Referral	2022	None
	2023	None
	2024	None

ARRESTS AND REFERRALS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION – EMPLOYEEES:

Offense	Academic Year	Outcomes/ Action Taken
Liquor Law Arrest	2022	None
	2023	None
	2024	None

Liquor Law Referral	2022	None
	2023	None
	2024	None
Drug Violation Arrest	2022	None
	2023	None
	2024	None
Drug Violation Referral	2022	None
	2023	None
	2024	None

Because there were no offenses by students or employees in the last three academic years, there was no disciplinary action / sanctions to be taken.

## 5. Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Substances:

### a. Policy and Standards

MRU is committed to maintaining a working, learning, and living environment that is free of drugs and alcohol. The purpose of these policies are to avoid accidents; promote and maintain safe and efficient working conditions for students and employees; protect, property, equipment, and operations. MRU is a Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace. It is the policy of MRU to comply with Florida state laws with regard to underage drinking. In the state of Florida, the legal age for consumption of alcohol is 21. Access to and use of alcohol on campus is limited and regulated by state, federal, and local laws, and by the university's rules and regulations, which are established in accordance with Florida state laws as well as insurance and safety regulations. As a condition of employment with the university, each employee must abide by the policy.

Florida law prohibits the sale, manufacture, or delivery, or possession with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver, of a controlled substance "in, on, or within 1,000 feet of the real property, comprising a public or private college, university or other post-secondary institution." Fla. Stat § 893.13(1)(d). Violators can face up to 30 years in prison. MRU Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policy on the MRU Consumer Information Section of our website.

### b. Conduct

Employees who are under the influence of a drug or alcohol on the job compromise the university's interests; endanger their health, safety, and the health and safety of others, including other employees, students and visitors; and can cause a number of other work-related problems, including absenteeism and tardiness, compromised job performance, increased workloads for coworkers, behavior that disrupts other employees, delays in the completion of work, inferior quality in products or service, and disruption of customer relations.

The prohibitions of this section apply whenever the interests of the university may be adversely affected, including any time the employee is:

- On university premises;

- At university-sponsored or university-related events;
- Conducting or performing university business, regardless of location;
- Operating or responsible for the operation, custody, or care of university equipment or other property; or
- Responsible for the safety of others.

The following acts are prohibited and subject an employee to termination:

- The unauthorized use, possession, purchase, sale, manufacture, distribution, transportation or dispensation of alcohol;
- Being under the influence of alcohol while at work;
- The use, possession, purchase, sale, manufacture, distribution, transportation, or dispensation of any illegal drug or other controlled substance;
- Being under the influence of any illegal drug or other controlled substance;
- The abuse of any legal drug;
- The purchase, sale, manufacture, distribution, transportation, dispensation, or possession of any legal prescription drug in a manner inconsistent with law; or
- Working while impaired by the use of a legal drug whenever such impairment might:
  - o Endanger the safety of the employee or some other person;
  - o Pose a risk of significant damage to university property or equipment; or
  - o Substantially interferes with the employee's job performance or the efficient operation of the university's business or equipment.

#### c. Alcohol

MRU respects the rights of those students 21 years of age or older to consume alcohol. Students under the age of 21 are not permitted to have alcohol on campus or at any designated university function. Students found in violation of this policy may have the alcohol confiscated and may also receive disciplinary action. Alcohol is not permitted on campus without permission from an authorized university official.

Students are expected to act responsibly and maturely regardless of whether they have consumed alcoholic beverages. Inappropriate behavior resulting from alcohol consumption and/or abuse is a violation of university regulations and policy.

The use or abuse of alcohol is not an acceptable excuse for violation of university policies. Specifically:

- Alcoholic beverages may not be served on university property or within university facilities without proper authorization.

- The appropriate administrator may grant permission to those persons, groups or organizations in their area of responsibility. All permissions granted must be consistent with established policy.
- Persons under the legal drinking age may not distribute, sell, possess, consume, or be under the influence of alcohol, nor be in the presence of alcohol while on campus.
- In an instance of an underage person being present where alcohol is being consumed or available, the person of legal drinking age may also be held accountable.
- Persons of legal drinking age may not distribute, provide, or sell alcohol to persons under the legal drinking age.
- The supplying, possession and consumption of alcohol are prohibited during student-sponsored events and university events at which underage students are present, except with the written approval of the appropriate administrator.
- Use or possession of false or altered identification, or other misrepresentation of one's age in order to possess, consume or purchase alcohol, is prohibited.
- The possession and/or use of alcohol paraphernalia (funnels, bongs, beer pong tables, etc.) is prohibited.
- Public intoxication is prohibited.
- Driving while under the influence of alcohol is prohibited.

#### **Why is heavy alcohol use a concern on university campuses?**

There are known developmental risk factors for university students. Alcohol, binge drinking and other drug use affect student health, well-being and academic achievement. Consequences of heavy alcohol use may include abuse and dependence, academic difficulties, accidents or injuries, aggressive behavior, alcohol poisoning, driving under the influence, hangovers, relationship problems, unplanned sexual activity, sexual assault, vandalism and violent campus crimes.

#### **d. Drugs**

MRU does not support any activity related to the possession, use, provision, or sale of any substance considered to be illegal or mind-altering. This policy includes, but is not limited to, marijuana, salvia and the nonprescribed use of prescription drugs. Note that the State of Florida's Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act does not change the university's prohibition regarding the possession, use, provision, or sale of marijuana or otherwise authorize individuals to use medical marijuana on campus. Federal law, including the Drug Free Schools Act, continues to prohibit marijuana. Thus, marijuana possession or use, even if in compliance with the Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act, is prohibited on campus. Drug paraphernalia also is prohibited and includes any and all types of equipment, products and materials of any kind that are used, intended for use or designated for using or selling drugs.

On-campus and/or off-campus involvement in possession, use or sharing of drugs may result in suspension from the university for a minimum of one semester and until the student completes his or her educational sanctions. This suspension may occur regardless of legal action.

The selling or sharing of illegal drugs, including marijuana and prescription drugs, on or off campus, may result in expulsion. Given the considerations and other dangers regarding the use and abuse of drugs, regulations will be enforced and are applicable regardless of the status of any legal proceedings.

Specifically:

- Illegal substances may not be possessed, used, shared, distributed, bought, sold or manufactured on campus.
- Controlled substances may not be possessed, used, shared, distributed, bought, sold or manufactured on campus except as expressly permitted by law.
- Illegal or inappropriate use of substances to cause intoxication or hallucination is prohibited.
- Possessing any and all types of drug-related paraphernalia, equipment, products or materials of any kind that are used, intended for use, or designed for using, selling, manipulating or manufacturing drugs is prohibited.
- Abusing or misusing one's own prescribed drugs is prohibited.
- Being in the presence or in the vicinity of drugs, drug paraphernalia or drug use is prohibited.

#### *Prescription drugs*

The misuse and abuse of any prescription drugs can result in physical and psychological consequences, including addiction, accidental overdose and death. Mixing prescription drugs with alcohol or any other drug increases the likelihood of toxic overdose and death. Sharing prescription drugs is a felony under Florida law and is a violation of University policy. The illegal possession, use or sharing of prescription drugs is also a violation of university policy and may result in conduct sanctions and/or disciplinary action.

#### *Location and paraphernalia*

Students found in the vicinity of drug use (e.g., being in the same room) or in possession of marijuana-related or other drug-related paraphernalia, which is defined as, but not limited to, any and all types of equipment, products or materials of any kind that are used, intended for use or designed for using or selling drugs, will face student conduct consequences.

#### *e. Health Risks*

The use, misuse and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, both legal and illegal, can have serious consequences to health and well-being. Alcohol and other drug use can lead to psychological and/or physiological dependence and addiction. Information on specific health risks associated with alcohol and other drugs is summarized below.

Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant that can impair coordination, inhibitions, self-control, memory, judgment, and reflexes. Large quantities may produce staggering, slurred

speech, mood changes, unconsciousness and possibly death. Prolonged use can damage many organs of the body, including the heart, liver, stomach and pancreas.

Marijuana can increase heart rate, interfere with sexual development, may cause a reduction in male fertility and disrupt the female menstrual cycle. It can increase the risk of disease/damage to the body's respiratory system and impair eye-hand coordination and other essential functions needed to operate a motor vehicle safely. It can also impair the body's immune system.

Cocaine can cause feelings of depression, inability, impatience and pessimism. It can also cause severe weight loss, anxiety, hallucinations, increased heart rate and blood pressure. Cocaine has caused death by convulsion, failure of the respiratory system and by heart attack.

Over-the-counter and prescription drugs can also cause drug tolerance, dependence and addiction. The potential for misuse and abuse is increased with these drugs as they are easily obtainable and safe as far as ingredients and manufacturing, and the user may tend not to follow specific instructions for dosage and frequency. Many legal drugs also have a long shelf life, leading to their use after they are no longer needed or for self-medication without medical supervision.

Interaction between various drugs, legal and illegal, may have serious consequences for the user. Various combinations of drugs may work at cross purposes within the body, and the combined effects of two or more drugs may be more potent than the effect of a single drug.

Club drugs such as MDMA (Ecstasy), GHB, LSD, Rohypnol, Ketamine and Methamphetamine can cause serious health problems and possibly death. Many of these drugs are tasteless and odorless. The chemicals, drug sources and pharmacological agents used to manufacture these drugs often vary, making it difficult to determine all of the effects, symptoms and health risks associated with club drugs. Confusion, depression, impaired motor function, amnesia, psychotic behavior, cardiac failure and permanent neurological and organ damage are some known effects associated with the use of these drugs.

#### f. Sanctions

It is the policy of MRU University to comply with federal and State of Florida drug laws. Students, staff or faculty who engage in conduct prohibited by law in violation of any city ordinances, state criminal laws or federal laws relating to illegal drug use or the university's drug policies may be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

##### A. University Sanctions

- Students: Sanctions may include warnings, disciplinary probation, suspension from the university, expulsion, campus restrictions, behavioral contracts, community service, financial fines or restitution, referrals to professional counseling, other educational assignments, or the withholding or revocation of a degree. Sanctions that include suspension and/or expulsion from the university may be noted on the student's permanent academic records, including transcripts.

- Staff: The sanction may include any form of progressive discipline or termination as set forth in the Staff Discipline and Corrective Action Policy, including disciplinary action such as warning, reprimand, withholding of a promotion or pay increase, reassignment, temporary suspension without pay or termination, as well as possible training and/or referral to counseling.
- Faculty: The sanction may include any form of disciplinary action, including, warning, reprimand, withholding of a promotion or pay increase, reassignment, temporary suspension without pay or termination, as well as possible training and/or referral to counseling.
- For an employee who is also a student acting within the scope of his/her employment at the time of the incident, the sanction may include any permissible discipline from the university catalog or handbook.

At the discretion of the university, a student or employee found to have violated any city ordinances, state criminal laws or federal laws relating to alcohol or drug use, or university alcohol and drug policies, may be required, in addition to any disciplinary action taken or as an alternative to disciplinary action, to participate in and satisfactorily complete an appropriate counseling, rehabilitation or assistance program. In addition to university sanctions, the affected individual may be subject to criminal penalties under applicable federal and state law (see below). For more information on prohibited student behaviors involving drugs, please refer to the University catalog or handbook.

#### *B. Legal Sanctions and Compliance with Federal and State Drug Laws*

Effective July 1, 2023, drug convictions no longer affect federal student aid eligibility. If students are subject to an involuntary civil commitment for a sexual offense, they may qualify for a Federal Pell grant, see:

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/criminal-convictions>

Student eligibility for federal student aid **can be affected by incarceration**. One you are released; the eligibility limitations related to your incarceration will be removed. If you are on probation or parole or living in a halfway house, you may be eligible for federal student aid.

#### *Student Responsibilities if Convicted During Period of Enrollment*

If a student is convicted of a drug offense after receiving Federal aid, they must notify the Office of Financial Aid immediately. If a student has been convicted of a drug offense while applying to receive Title IV Federal financial aid, they are required to report the conviction on item number 23 of the FAFSA.

#### *Parental Notification for Student Violations of the Alcohol and Other Drug Policy*

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 authorizes higher education institutions to inform a parent or guardian of any student under age 21, who has been found in violation of any federal, state or local law or any rule or policy of the institution governing the use or possession of alcohol or controlled substances. The Provost will notify parents/guardians of



students under 21 years of age when a student is found responsible for a violation of the University's DAAPP and all appeals have been exhausted.

#### State Alcohol Laws and Sanctions

Florida Statutes Chapter 562 details the Florida laws on alcoholic beverages and related penalties (misdemeanor, felony). Pursuant to Florida Statute 562.11, it is unlawful for a person under the age of 21, except a person employed under the provisions of F.S. 562.13 acting in the scope of her or his employment within hotels, restaurants and other licensed establishments, to have in her or his possession alcoholic beverages (F.S. 562.111). Violation of this offense is punishable by a definite term of imprisonment of up to 60 days and/or a \$500 fine; a subsequent offense is punishable by a definite term of imprisonment of up to one year and a fine of \$1,000. Possession of alcoholic beverages by a person under age 21 may also result in curtailment of driving privileges.

#### Florida Drug Laws and Sanctions

Florida law prohibits the sale, manufacture, or delivery, or possession with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver, of a Controlled Substance "in, on, or within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a public or private college, University, or other postsecondary institution." Fla. Stat. § 893.13(1)(d). Punishment for such crimes ranges from first-degree misdemeanors (up to one year imprisonment and up to a \$1,000 fine) to first-degree felonies (up to 30 years imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine).

Specifically, possession of fewer than 20 grams of marijuana is punishable with imprisonment of up to one year and a fine of up to \$1,000; possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana is a third-degree felony with imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of up to \$5,000. Trafficking (distributing specified large quantities of various controlled substances) is punishable by a term of imprisonment up to life and a fine of \$25,000 to \$500,000, depending on the particular illicit drug and the quantity involved. Thus, possession of fewer than 28 grams of cocaine is a third-degree felony, while possession of more than 28 grams of cocaine, trafficking in cocaine, is a first-degree felony, punishable with a fine of up to \$250,000 and imprisonment up to life without eligibility for early release. The death penalty may be imposed if a person has brought large quantities of the substances into the state knowing the result would be the death of any person.

Florida Controlled Substance List and Schedules can be found under F.S. 893.03. The Florida Precursor Chemical list, which lists chemicals that may be used in manufacturing a controlled substance in violation of Florida Statute, can be found under F.S. 893.033.

#### Federal penalties for illicit drugs

The following federal trafficking penalties for illegal drugs took effect November 18, 1988, under the Controlled Substance Acts (CSA). The Drug Enforcement Administration with the US Department of Justice publishes A DEA Resource Guide which delineates the CSA Drug Schedules and federal trafficking penalties. The information is available at: <https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/publication/drugs-abuse>.



## **CSA Schedules I through V**

**Schedule I:** The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse. The drug or other substance has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. There is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision. Examples of Schedule I substances include heroin, gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), marijuana, and methaqualone, flualprazolam, and etizolam.

**Schedule II:** The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse. The drug or other substance has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence. Examples of Schedule II substances include morphine, phencyclidine (PCP), cocaine, methadone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, and methamphetamine.

**Schedule III:** The drug or other substance has less potential for abuse than the drugs or other substances in Schedules I and II.

The drug or other substance has a currently accepted medical use in

treatment in the United States. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence. Anabolic steroids, codeine products with aspirin or acetaminophen, and some barbiturates are examples of Schedule III substances.

**Schedule IV:** The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in Schedule III. The drug or other substance has a currently accepted medical use in the United States. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence relative to the drugs or other substances in Schedule III. Examples of drugs included in Schedule IV are alprazolam, clonazepam, and diazepam.

**Schedule V:** The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in Schedule IV. The drug or other substance has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of the drug or other substances may lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence relative to the drugs or other substances in Schedule IV. Cough medicines with codeine are examples

### CSA Schedule and Penalties per Offense

Schedule	Drug / Amount	First Offense	Second Offense
I	Marijuana $\geq 1,000$ kg or $\geq 1,000$ plants	10 yrs–Life; If death/serious injury: 20 yrs–Life; Fine $\leq \$10M$ (individual) / $\$50M$ (other)	15 yrs–Life; If death/serious injury: Life; Fine $\leq \$20M$ (individual) / $\$75M$ (other)
I	Marijuana 100–999 kg or 100–999 plants	5–40 yrs; If death/serious injury: 20 yrs–Life; Fine $\leq \$5M$ (individual) / $\$25M$ (other)	10 yrs–Life; If death/serious injury: Life; Fine $\leq \$8M$ (individual) / $\$50M$ (other)
I	Marijuana 50–99 kg or 50–99 plants; Hashish $>10$ kg; Hashish Oil $>1$ kg	$\leq 20$ yrs; If death/serious injury: 20 yrs–Life; Fine $\leq \$1M$ (individual) / $\$5M$ (other)	$\leq 30$ yrs; If death/serious injury: Life; Fine $\leq \$2M$ (individual) / $\$10M$ (other)
I	Marijuana $<50$ kg (except $\geq 50$ plants); Hashish $\leq 10$ kg; Hashish Oil $\leq 1$ kg	$\leq 5$ yrs; Fine $\leq \$250k$ (individual) / $\$1M$ (other)	$\leq 10$ yrs; Fine $\leq \$500k$ (individual) / $\$2M$ (other)
II	Cocaine $\geq 500$ g; Cocaine Base $\geq 28$ g; Fentanyl $\geq 40$ g; Heroin $\geq 100$ g; PCP $\geq 10$ g; LSD $\geq 1$ g; methamphetamine $\geq 5$ g (pure) or $\geq 50$ g (mixture)	5–40 yrs; If death/serious injury: 20 yrs–Life; Fine $\leq \$5M$ (individual) / $\$25M$ (other)	10 yrs–Life; If death/serious injury: Life; Fine $\leq \$8M$ (individual) / $\$50M$ (other)
II	Larger amounts (e.g., Cocaine $\geq 5$ kg, Methamphetamine $\geq 50$ g pure/500 g mixture, LSD $\geq 10$ g, PCP $\geq 100$ g, Heroin $\geq 1$ kg)	10 yrs–Life; If death/serious injury: 20 yrs–Life; Fine $\leq \$10M$ (individual) / $\$50M$ (other)	20 yrs–Life; If death/serious injury: Life; Fine $\leq \$20M$ (individual) / $\$75M$ (other)
III	Any amount of a Schedule III substance	$\leq 10$ yrs; If death/serious injury: $\leq 15$ yrs; Fine $\leq \$500k$ (individual) / $\$2.5M$ (other)	$\leq 20$ yrs; If death/serious injury: $\leq 30$ yrs; Fine $\leq \$1M$ (individual) / $\$5M$ (other)
IV	Any amount of a Schedule IV substance	$\leq 5$ yrs; Fine $\leq \$250k$ (individual) / $\$1M$ (other)	$\leq 10$ yrs; Fine $\leq \$500k$ (individual) / $\$2M$ (other)
V	Any amount of a Schedule V substance	$\leq 1$ yr; Fine $\leq \$100k$ (individual) / $\$250k$ (other)	$\leq 4$ yrs; Fine $\leq \$200k$ (individual) / $\$500k$ (other)

### **Drug-related overdoses; medical assistance; immunity from prosecution (F.S. 893.21)**

1. A person acting in good faith who seeks medical assistance for an individual experiencing a drug-related overdose may not be charged, prosecuted or penalized pursuant to this chapter for possession of a controlled substance if the evidence for possession of a controlled substance was obtained as a result of the person's seeking medical assistance.
2. A person who experiences a drug-related overdose and is in need of medical assistance may not be charged, prosecuted or penalized pursuant to this chapter for possession of a controlled substance if the evidence for possession of a controlled substance was obtained as a result of the overdose and the need for medical assistance.
3. Protection in this section from prosecution for possession offenses under this chapter may not be grounds for suppression of evidence in other criminal prosecutions.

### **WHO IS PROTECTED**

- **The person calling for help:**

If you call 911 or seek medical assistance for someone who is experiencing, or you believe is experiencing, a drug-related overdose, you cannot be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for possession of controlled substances if the evidence for that possession was discovered as a result of you calling for help.

- **The person experiencing the overdose:**

If you are the one who is experiencing, or believes they are experiencing, an overdose and needs medical assistance, you are also granted immunity from prosecution for drug possession if the evidence of that possession was obtained as a result of your need for medical help.

### **LIMITS OF THE IMMUNITY**

- **Good Faith:**

Both the person seeking help and the person experiencing the overdose must have acted in good faith.

- **Possession offenses:**

The immunity primarily covers drug possession charges under the Florida controlled substances chapter (Chapter 893).

- **Evidence Suppression:**

The protection from prosecution for possession offenses does not create grounds for suppressing evidence in other criminal prosecutions.

- **Other Violations:**

The immunity for violating a condition of pretrial release, probation, or parole is also tied to the evidence being obtained as a result of seeking medical assistance.

In essence, the law encourages people to call for help in overdose situations by removing the fear of being arrested for possession of drugs that may be discovered when medical assistance is sought

The use, misuse and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, both legal and illegal, can have serious consequences to health and well-being. Alcohol and other drug use can lead to psychological and/or physiological dependence and addiction. Information on specific health risks associated with alcohol and other drugs is summarized below.

Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant that can impair coordination, inhibitions, self-control, memory, judgment, and reflexes. Large quantities may produce staggering, slurred speech, mood changes, unconsciousness and possibly death. Prolonged use can damage many organs of the body, including the heart, liver, stomach and pancreas.

Marijuana can increase heart rate, interfere with sexual development, may cause a reduction in male fertility and disrupt the female menstrual cycle. It can increase the risk of disease/damage to the body's respiratory system and impair eye-hand coordination and other essential functions needed to operate a motor vehicle safely. It can also impair the body's immune system.

Cocaine can cause feelings of depression, inability, impatience and pessimism. It can also cause severe weight loss, anxiety, hallucinations, increased heart rate and blood pressure. Cocaine has caused death by convulsion, failure of the respiratory system and by heart attack.

Over-the-counter and prescription drugs can also cause drug tolerance, dependence and addiction. The potential for misuse and abuse is increased with these drugs as they are easily obtainable and safe as far as ingredients and manufacturing, and the user may tend not to follow specific instructions for dosage and frequency. Many legal drugs also have a long shelf life, leading to their use after they are no longer needed or for self-medication without medical supervision.

Interaction between various drugs, legal and illegal, may have serious consequences for the user. Various combinations of drugs may work at cross purposes within the body, and the combined effects of two or more drugs may be more potent than the effect of a single drug.

#### g. Remedies

##### *Counseling and Treatment Services*

- Counseling services are available to students struggling with substance abuse issues through WellConnect, free of charge.
- Referral services for external treatment programs are provided by WellConnect, when necessary.
- Counseling services are available to employees through the Employee Assistance Program provided by Lucet.
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA): Phone: (305) 461- 2425, [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)  
AA offers a way to stop drinking to individuals who feel they have a problem with alcohol. AA groups are located in most cities and rural communities throughout the

country. Look up “Alcoholics Anonymous” in a local telephone directory for a contact in your area.

- AlcoholScreening.org: This free, confidential website lets individuals privately assess their own drinking habits and receive personalized feedback to help them determine if they need help to change those habits. Individuals can also find out about facilities in their communities that offer drug and alcohol abuse treatment and consultations with qualified health professionals regarding alcohol problems. Online at: [www.alcoholscreening.org](http://www.alcoholscreening.org)
- Al-Anon: Phone: 888-4AL-ANON, <https://al-anon.org/> or [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) Al-Anon provides information on the effects of alcohol abuse and refers friends and families of alcohol abusers to nearby support groups. Al-Anon’s purpose is to help families and friends of alcoholics recover from the effects of living with a relative or friend with a drinking problem.
- American Council on Alcoholism: Phone: 800-527-5344, <http://acaap.us/> This service provides referrals to alcoholism treatment programs nationwide and distributes written materials on alcohol abuse problems.
- Cocaine Anonymous: Phone: 800-347-8998, [www.ca.org](http://www.ca.org)  
Cocaine Anonymous provides support for people dependent on cocaine and other mind-altering substances. Callers are referred to local helplines.
- Nar-Anon: Phone: 800-477-6291, <https://naranonfl.org/> or [www.na.org](http://www.na.org) This worldwide program provides support for friends and families of individuals with substance abuse problems.
- Miami Dade County has substance abuse treatment programs to assist with addiction. The Rehabilitative Services Division provides comprehensive residential and outpatient treatment to adults diagnosed with substance use disorders who currently reside within Miami Dade County. The Central Intake Unit can provide Screening and Assessment to determine the appropriate level of care and placement options. They are located at: 3140 NW 76 Street, Miami, Florida 3317 and can be contacted at: 305-694-2766 or through the Miami Dade County website : MDC website for Substance Abuse
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline 1(800)487-4889

#### V. [Additional Information to Maintain our Commitment](#)

Our data has demonstrated that there have not been any incidents reported by any of the respective departments, nor the local police department.

- a. Our institution has implemented a comprehensive prevention education program that includes:

- Upon enrollment, students receive a copy of the DAAPP.
- New student orientation program will include information with dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.
- Utilization of online platforms, such as the student portal, that is used to reach students who may have limited on-campus presence.
- Regular awareness campaigns will be displayed throughout the academic year, targeting students, faculty and staff. For example in September (National Recovery Month) and October (Substance Abuse Prevention Month) MRU hosted students at a promoting smart alcohol free choices events on campus in the student lounge.
- Workshops, seminars and training sessions addressing the risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse. Virtual Seminars for the online students.
- New employees will be provided with information on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse during onboarding.
- All employees will receive a refresher during the annual MRU Kick Off Meeting.
- b. The MRU Health and Wellness Center has informational materials that demonstrate the physical and mental health impacts of substance abuse.
- c. Utilization of social media platforms to disseminate targeted messages and resources are shared.
- d. Explore partnerships with local community organizations for collaborative prevention efforts, by coming to campus and speaking with students and staff.
- e. Surveys will be conducted on a triannual basis to assess the knowledge and attitudes of students and employees regarding substance abuse and the DAAPP.
- f. Feedback from educational programs, workshops, and prevention initiatives will be collected and used to refine program elements.

## VI. Certification

In accordance with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations Act and EDGAR Part 86, Miami Regional University certifies that it has reviewed and evaluated its DAAPP and has taken steps to ensure the program's continued effectiveness. The university is committed to the well-being of its community members and will continue to refine and enhance its drug and alcohol abuse prevention efforts.

This report will be disseminated to the appropriate stakeholders and made available to the public as required.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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10/31/2025

Ophelia S. Sanchez  
 President & CEO  
 Miami Regional University

Date