

University of Houston Clear Lake

MEMORANDUM OF ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

SECTION: Administration
AREA: Student Affairs

Number: 05.C.01

SUBJECT: Call for Help and Medical Amnesty Policy

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Student health and safety are of primary concern at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. As such, in cases of significant intoxication or injury because of alcohol or other substances (including legal and illicit drugs) that require medical attention, the University encourages individuals to seek medical assistance for themselves and others. The University recognizes that students may be reluctant to seek medical assistance out of fear of consequences related to possessing or consuming alcohol or drugs.

The purpose of the Call for Help and Medical Amnesty Policy is to reduce the barriers to seeking medical assistance for emergencies and promote community wellbeing and safety. When this occurs, the University honors that care by prioritizing educational and supportive responses. The University will not pursue disciplinary action through the university student conduct and disciplinary process for violations of the University's alcohol and drug policies for students who take such action (for themselves and others).

- 1.1 The following policy applies to all actively enrolled undergraduate and graduate students in the University of Houston-Clear Lake ("the University") community, including all campuses (e.g., UHCL, UHCL at Pearland, and UHCL at the Texas Medical Center).
- 1.2 The following policy applies to student conduct occurring on and off campus.

II. POLICY INFORMATION

- 2.1 In instances where a student seeks medical assistance for themselves or another individual, the University will not pursue disciplinary action through the university student conduct and disciplinary process for violations of the University's alcohol and drug use and/or possession policies for the eligible students. Students who are eligible for Amnesty include, but are not limited to:
 - A. A student who contacts student safety or emergency services (Calls 911 or the University of Houston-Clear Lake Police) or speaks with a University Official to obtain medical assistance for themselves or another individual experiencing an alcohol or drug-related medical emergency, prior to the University intervening; and, if applicable:
 1. The student(s) stays with the individual requiring aid;
 2. The student(s) involved responds to communication and meets with the appropriate University Staff after the incident; and
 3. The student(s) cooperates with any University and/or criminal investigation related to the incident.
- 2.2 The student(s) in need of medical assistance must complete any educational intervention or requirement determined by the University.
- 2.3 Amnesty does not apply when action to call for help is not taken prior to the arrival of a University Official, or student safety/emergency personnel.

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- 2.4 Amnesty only applies to university alcohol and drug use and/or possession policies, including those which are outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Possession is defined as an individual possessing an amount of alcohol or drugs sufficient only for personal use.
- 2.5 A student alleged to be in violation of other laws, ordinances, or University policies other than those related to alcohol and drug use will still be subject to the university student conduct and disciplinary process for those potential violations.
- 2.6 Amnesty may not be used as a means for students to circumvent University policy. The Dean of Students Office will determine on a case-by-case basis whether a student is eligible for Amnesty under the policy.
- 2.7 Incidents and cases involving eligible students approved for Amnesty will not be included in the student's official conduct record at the university.
- 2.8 All medical amnesty incidents and cases will be tracked through the Dean of Students Office, via the student conduct software system (e.g., Maxient).
- 2.9 This process is separate from any legal proceedings and the University cannot guarantee any amnesty outside of the university student conduct and disciplinary process and system.

III. DEFINITIONS

The following terms are important for purposes of expressing the university's policy on students seeking/calling for help and medical assistance.

- 3.1 Amnesty: Exemption from discipline for violations of university alcohol- or drug-use/possession policies for students seeking immediate medical assistance for themselves or on behalf of students experiencing alcohol or drug-related emergencies and for students requiring medical attention related to alcohol or drug-related emergency. Instead, the students will meet with university personnel (i.e., the Dean of Students Office staff) and be assigned educational interventions when there is concern regarding the safety of a student in connection with the student's alcohol or drug use.
- 3.2 Educational Intervention: One or more educational requirements (e.g., an alcohol and/or drug-related module or workshop) provided by the Dean of Students Office for eligible students approved for medical amnesty.
- 3.3 Medical Emergency: A serious and unexpected situation involving illness or injury and requiring immediate action. It is not uncommon for medical assistance to be required after consumption of alcohol and/or drugs. Examples of medical emergencies include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Alcohol Poisoning/Overdose
 - 1. Signs of Substance Overdose include:
 - a. Confusion or stupor
 - b. Vomiting while passed out, not waking up after vomiting, or incoherence while vomiting
 - c. Seizures
 - d. Breathing is slow (less than 8 breaths per minute) or irregular, with 10 seconds or more between breaths
 - e. Weak pulse, very rapid pulse, or very slow pulse
 - f. Cold, clammy, pale, or bluish skin
 - g. Loss of consciousness: Inability to awaken a person with loud shouting, or inability of a person to remain awake for more than

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2-3 minutes or to carry on a coherent conversation when awake (semi-conscious)

- h. A person who has lost consciousness and cannot be awakened. Help is needed immediately.

- B. Drug Overdose
- C. Physical injuries because of substance use

IV. PROCEDURE

- 4.1 If a student is eligible for Amnesty, the University will not pursue disciplinary action through the student conduct and disciplinary process. However, the University recognizes the need to provide education and support related to alcohol and/or drug use for students. Students who are eligible for Amnesty must complete the following steps:

- A. Eligible students are required to meet with a staff member in the Dean of Students Office or their designee.
- B. The University will notify and schedule a meeting with the student through official University communication channels (e.g., Maxient or UHCL email).
- C. Withing five to seven business days of the scheduled meeting, the staff member will determine appropriate educational interventions for the student. There will be no cost associated with any educational interventions assigned.
- D. The student must complete the required educational intervention(s). Educational intervention may include, but is not limited to:
 - 1. An alcohol and/or drug-related module or workshop
 - 2. A one-to-one meeting with a Dean of Students Office staff member
 - 3. A confidential one-to-one meeting with an alcohol and/or other drug specialist (e.g., a university counselor or therapist)
- E. Serious or repeated incidents will prompt a higher degree of concern for the safety of the student and may prompt additional educational intervention requirements to address that concern.
- F. Students must complete the requirements in their entirety, and by the established deadline(s). If a student fails to complete the requirements in their entirety and/or by the established deadline(s), they may be subject to additional requirements or may be subject to the formal student conduct and disciplinary process outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- G. During the required meeting, any student who brings their own use, addiction, or dependency to the attention of the staff member will be supported. The University is committed to supporting students navigating substance use issues and will work directly with the student to identify resources to support their care.

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V. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsible Party: Vice President of Student Affairs, the Dean of Students Office

Review: Every 3 years

APPROVAL:


VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS


PRESIDENT

DATE: 5/16/2025

VI. REVISION LOG

Revision Number	Approval Date	Policy History/Description of Change
1	May 15, 2025	No prior issues of this policy.

VII. REFERENCES

[Oklahoma City University Medical Amnesty Policy](#)

[Oklahoma State University Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program](#)

[Texas Christian University Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan Policy](#)

[Texas Medical Amnesty Law \(911 Lifeline law\)](#)

[University of Houston MAPP 06.04.02 – Substance Use Disorder Prevention](#)

[University of North Texas Amnesty Policy](#)

[University of Texas at Austin Medical Amnesty Resources](#)