

Title: #VI-02A. Impairment and Medical Marijuana

Date: February 13, 2025

I. Purpose

WVU Parkersburg is committed to maintaining a safe, productive, and legally compliant learning environment. As a federally funded institution, we adhere to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and other relevant federal regulations, which prohibit the possession, use, or distribution of marijuana on campus, regardless of state medical marijuana laws.

II. Definition of Impairment

Impairment refers to the diminished ability to perform tasks or functions due to the effects of substances such as alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs. In the context of marijuana use, impairment includes but is not limited to:

- **Cognitive Impairment:** Difficulty with concentration, memory, and decision-making.
- **Physical/Motor Impairment:** Reduced coordination, slower reaction times, and impaired fine motor skills.
- **Behavioral Changes:** Altered judgment, increased risk-taking, changes in mood or demeanor, and decreased productivity or performance.

Unlike alcohol, for which West Virginia law establishes a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit of 0.08, there is no universally accepted test for measuring marijuana impairment. West Virginia maintains a zero-tolerance THC policy, meaning that any presence of THC is considered impaired if accompanied by observable symptoms.

III. Impairment and Hands-On Activities

Students who exhibit signs of impairment will not be permitted to participate in hands-on activities, including but not limited to:

- Laboratory work
- Clinical rotations
- Trade and technical training
- Internships and apprenticeships
- Any task requiring the operation of machinery or motor vehicles

Faculty and staff are trained to recognize observable symptoms of impairment, including but not limited to changes in speech, demeanor, motor skills, or performance. Any student found impaired during hands-on activities may be required to leave the activity and will be subject to

disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct (Board of Governors Policy D-46).

IV. Compliance with Federal Law and ADA Considerations

As a recipient of federal funding, WVU Parkersburg is required to comply with federal law, which classifies marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance. As such:

- The college does not accommodate medical marijuana use, even for students with valid state-issued medical marijuana cards.
- Students who require accommodations due to a disability may seek support through the college's Disability Services Office. Accommodations will be made in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) but will not include the use of medical marijuana.
- Alternative treatments and accommodations will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. The institution encourages students to work with medical professionals to find legally compliant treatment options that support their educational goals.

V. Enforcement and Disciplinary Action

Students found to be impaired in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary measures, which may include:

- Removal from class or hands-on activities
- Written warnings or conduct probation
- Referral to counseling or educational programs
- Suspension or expulsion for repeated or severe violations

Students who believe they have been wrongfully accused of impairment may follow the institution's appeal procedures outlined in the Code of Student Conduct (Board of Governors Policy D-46).

VI. Resources and Support

WVU Parkersburg encourages students to seek assistance if they are struggling with substance use or require accommodations for a medical condition. The following resources are available:

- Disability Services Office
- Student Counseling Services
- Academic Support Services

For questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Responsible Administrator: Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, 304-424-8242