

## **MEDICAL AMNESTY POLICY**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. The health and safety of students are of primary importance to Muhlenberg College and those around them.
2. Students are encouraged not only to look out for their own health and safety, but also for the health and safety of their peers.
3. It is imperative that someone calls for medical assistance when an individual experiences severe intoxication or serious injury after consuming alcohol and/or other drugs (AOD).
4. When a student's health and safety are threatened or appear to be in jeopardy, immediate action should be taken to prevent injury/illness/danger.
5. Students are encouraged to seek help, even though students may be reluctant to seek help in AOD-related emergencies because of anticipated consequences for themselves and for the person in need of assistance.
6. Muhlenberg College seeks to reduce any barriers that may jeopardize a student's health and safety. The "Muhlenberg College Medical Amnesty Policy" represents the College's commitment to increasing the likelihood that students will call for medical assistance when faced with an AOD-related medical emergency.

### **POLICY**

1. A student who seeks emergency medical assistance related to their consumption of AOD shall not be charged with violations of the College's Alcohol or Drug Policies. In lieu of judicial sanctions, the student must complete an AOD evaluation and, if indicated, a follow-up conversation and/or treatment. In addition, students involved in any Alcohol or Drug violation will also be required to take part in a group educational program related to substance use. Failure to complete the prescribed course of action may result in the imposition of sanctions under the College's Social Code and Parental Notification will occur.
2. Students who assist in obtaining emergency medical assistance on behalf of a fellow student experiencing an AOD-related medical emergency and are themselves under the influence of AOD, shall not be charged with violations of the College's Student Alcohol Policy and Drug Use and Controlled Substance Policy.
3. In circumstances where an organization is found to be hosting an event where medical assistance is sought for an intoxicated guest, the organization (depending upon the circumstances) may be held responsible for violations of the Student Alcohol Policy and Drug Use and Controlled Substance Policy. However, the organization's willingness to seek medical assistance for a member or guest will be viewed as a mitigating factor in determining responsibility and sanctions.
4. The Medical Amnesty Policy does not preclude judicial sanctions due to any other violations of the Student Code of Conduct (not related to the alcohol and other drugs).
5. The Medical Amnesty Policy does not prevent action by police or other law enforcement personnel. The College cannot guarantee that criminal charges will not be brought against the student if Allentown Police and/or MCEMS are required for assistance during the incident.
6. In cases in which a student is transported to the hospital for an AOD-related medical emergency and is unconscious or otherwise in serious physical jeopardy, emergency contact or parental notification by College officials may occur as a precautionary measure without the students' consent.
7. This policy applies only to students who seek emergency medical assistance for themselves or a fellow student in connection with an AOD-related medical emergency. It does not apply to individuals experiencing an AOD-related medical emergency who are found by College employees (e.g., Campus Police, College Administrators).

8. This policy does not excuse or protect those individuals who repeatedly violate or abuse the College's Student Alcohol Policy and Drug Use and Controlled Substance Policy. In cases where repetitive violations occur, appropriate action under the College's Social Code will be taken on a case-by case-basis.

### **PROCEDURE**

Information about the time and location of the AOD-related medical emergency will be recorded to enable any necessary follow-up in order to address issues of health and safety, vandalism, or chronic abuse of the Student Alcohol Policy and Drug Use and Controlled Substance Policy.