University of North Florida

Medical Amnesty Program

Proposal for Program Implementation

Office of Student and International Affairs
June 26, 2012
(A) **Program statement**

The University of North Florida (UNF) encourages a living and learning environment that promotes the health and safety of all members of the UNF community. Drug or alcohol consumption—including excessive consumption, consumption of a dangerous substance, or consumption by someone with sensitivity—can cause serious physical and neurological harm or be life-threatening. As such, students are encouraged to make responsible decisions and to seek medical attention in serious or life-threatening situations that result from alcohol and/or other drug abuse; students are also encouraged to seek help for any situation where medical treatment is reasonably believed to be appropriate. If a student is under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substances to the point where s/he is unable to be awakened, letting that person “sleep it off” is not a reasonable alternative to getting him/her immediate medical help. Students may be hesitant to seek help in such emergencies because of fear of potential conduct and disciplinary consequences for themselves, the person in need of medical attention, or the organization hosting the event where the situation occurs.

If medical attention is required, students should immediately contact professional medical personnel (9-1-1). A (1) student who seeks emergency assistance on behalf of him- or her- self, another student, or a friend experiencing an alcohol and/or other drug related emergency, as well as (2) the individual in distress will not be subject to disciplinary action under the UNF Student Conduct Code, as explained below.

(B) **Purpose of Program**

A medical amnesty program benefits our campus by encouraging students to make responsible decisions in seeking medical attention in serious or life-threatening situations that result from alcohol and/or other drug abuse and in any situation where medical treatment is reasonably believed to be appropriate. If a student is so intoxicated or drugged that s/he is unable to be awakened, letting that person “sleep it off” is not a reasonable alternative to getting him/her the necessary medical help. This Program seeks to diminish fear of disciplinary and conduct sanctions in such situations and to encourage individuals and organizations to seek needed medical attention for students in distress from alcohol and drug use.

(C) **Procedure**

UNF students who needed medical attention as a result of alcohol and/or illegal drug use and are considered for the Medical Amnesty Program as determined by the Student Conduct Office, are then required to meet with a staff member at Health Promotions. The staff member, after evaluating the situation, may also refer the student to other available resources. Students who are referred but fail to meet and complete the recommendations in their entirety may be subject to additional requirements after an opportunity to meet with a staff member from the Student Conduct Office.

If a registered student is transported to an emergency medical treatment center for alcohol or drug use, the student’s parents or guardians may be notified by the Office of the Vice President for Student and International Affairs or by the University Police Department if deemed necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.
If the student is involved in any subsequent (i.e., repeat) alcohol and/or drug abuse incidents, the situation will be evaluated by the Student Conduct Office to determine if the student qualifies for medical amnesty. The availability of medical amnesty for students with repetitive violations will be determined on a case by case basis. Typically, situations will be handled through the regular conduct process and will be considered for sanctioning purposes if a student does not demonstrate a commitment to the steps recommended by the health care professional and is involved in repetitive alcohol and/or drug abuse incidents.

(1) The Medical Amnesty Program applies to UNF students who initiate and seek assistance and/or medical treatment on behalf of themselves, another student, or a friend.

(2) If a representative of a UNF student organization hosting an event calls for medical assistance, this act of responsibility might mitigate potential Student Conduct Code consequences that could arise against the organization, i.e., the fact that an organization sought help will be favorably considered in potential sanctioning for university policy violations and/or FIPG Risk Management Policy violations. UNF student organizations involved in an incident must agree to take recommended steps to address concerns. In appropriate situations as determined in the conduct process, mitigation could result in the requirement of participation in an educational program or educational activities rather than other disciplinary consequences.

(3) The protocol applies only to the UNF Student Conduct Code and Housing & Residence Life Community Standards. Law enforcement agencies may act within their jurisdictions in enforcing the laws enacted by the State of Florida, the United States, or any other state or nation where jurisdiction may be invoked.

(4) The Medical Amnesty Program applies only to individuals’ use of alcohol and drugs where medical attention is needed. It does not apply to other prohibited behavior as outlined in the UNF Student Conduct Code.

Questions:
Questions regarding the Medical Amnesty Program in general, should be directed to:
The Student Conduct Office
(904) 620-3979

Questions regarding the Medical Amnesty Program for student organizations, should be directed to:
The Vice President of Student and International Affairs Office
(9042) 620-2600

Resources:
• Vice President of Student and International Affairs Office
• Student Government
• University Police Department
• Women’s Center: Victim Services
• Housing & Residence Life
• Counseling Center
• Health Promotion
• Health Services
• Fraternity & Sorority Life
How to help a friend who has had too much to drink:

**Alcohol poisoning can be fatal.** If someone has had too much to drink or hurt him or herself while drinking, call 911 immediately and stay with the person until help arrives.

In cases of a potential **head injury**, even if the person regains consciousness, he or she must be evaluated immediately.

**Signs of alcohol poisoning:**

*If person is experiencing ANY of these signs, call 911*

- Inability to rouse the person with loud shouting
- Vomiting while passed out, not waking up after vomiting, or incoherent while vomiting
- Inability of a person who was passed out to stay awake for more than 2-3 minutes
- Breathing is slow (less than 8 breaths per minute) or irregular, with 10 seconds or more between breaths
- Weak pulse, very rapid pulse, or very slow pulse
- Cold, clammy, or bluish skin

**What to do:**

Call 911

Stay with the person until help arrives.

Be prepared to give the emergency medical personnel as much information as possible, including any drugs or medications taken.

**What NOT to do:**

- **Do not hesitate to call 911.** The person's life is in danger. Better to be safe than sorry.
- **Do not leave the person alone.** The person may seem to be okay, but the alcohol ingested may take some time to be absorbed before peak levels are reached in the brain.
- **Do not try to give the person anything to eat or drink.**
- **Do not put the person in a cold shower.** The person could fall or the shock could make him/her pass out.
- **Don’t just let him or her "sleep it off."**

Reference: