



Drug and Alcohol Policy for Students

The American Institute of Medical Sciences & Education is a Drug & Alcohol Free Campus and has adopted and implemented programs and policies to prevent the unlawful possession, use, sale, manufacturing, or distribution of controlled and illicit drugs by students and employees. This includes the unlawful sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or illegal/misuse of any prescription drug.

Standards of Conduct

The policy includes the following:

- Prohibition against the unlawful presence of controlled substances on-campus, during AIMS sponsored or affiliated off-campus events and programs (meetings, etc.) and during off-campus educational experiences (clinical internships, Earn While You Learn, etc.).
- Prohibition against the unauthorized presence of alcoholic beverages on-campus, during AIMS sponsored or affiliated off-campus events and programs (meetings, etc.) and during off-campus educational experiences (clinical internships, Earn While You Learn, etc.).
- Prohibition against being under the influence of any controlled substance and/or alcoholic beverage on-campus, during AIMS sponsored or affiliated off-campus events and programs (meetings, etc.) and during off-campus educational experiences (clinical internships, Earn While You Learn, etc.).

Consequences of Violation of Policy

All members of the AIMS community are expected to comply with applicable local, state and federal laws regarding the possession, use or sale of alcohol or other drugs, whether on or off-campus, and the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy. Any student who violates policies or applicable law may be subject to disciplinary actions. Disciplinary actions for students may include, but are not limited to, sanctions by the Student Conduct Committee as well as other formal institutional sanctions (up to expulsion). The severity of the sanctions will depend, in part, on whether there have been repeated violations and on the seriousness of the misconduct. In addition to the internal consequences for violation of policy, students may be subject to external civil and criminal penalties.

Random Drug Screening

Any AIMS student who demonstrates behavior suspected consistent with the use of drugs or alcohol may be subject to drug testing. Students testing positive will be required to meet with the Student Affairs Coordinator and be subject to discipline or mandatory therapeutic and/or educational intervention.

Medical Amnesty

AIMS seeks to promote a community of care through providing Medical Amnesty for students who seek medical attention related to medical emergencies for alcohol and drugs. To ensure



that a student obtains the help they need for these potential life-threatening emergencies, AIMS seeks to reduce barriers to seeking assistance.

- No student seeking emergency medical treatment for themselves or for whom medical treatment was sought - due to the effects of drug or alcohol use - will be subject to discipline for violations pertaining to drug or alcohol possession/use as outlined in the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy.
- No student seeking assistance for someone else in need of emergency medical treatment will be subject to violations pertaining to alcohol possession/use as outlined in the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy.

AIMS Medical Amnesty:

- 1. Eliminates judicial consequences for:**
 - a. student seeking assistance (individual seeking emergency medical assistance)
 - b. the assisted student (individual for whom emergency medical assistance was sought)
 - c. others involved (individual/s seeking medical assistance for someone else)
- 2. Applies when the allegations under the Drug & Alcohol Policy involve:**
 - a. underage consumption of alcohol
 - b. use of drugs
 - c. disorderly conduct
- 3. Does not preclude disciplinary action regarding other violations, such as:**
 - a. causing or threatening physical harm
 - b. sexual violence
 - c. damage to property
 - d. fake identification
 - e. unlawful provision of alcohol or other drugs
 - f. harassment

Limitations:

- In order for this protocol to apply, the assisted student and/or involved parties (if mandated) must comply with stipulations and interventions (examples: administrative meeting, counseling, education, etc.), as assigned by the Institution.
*Stipulations/interventions are dependent on the level of concern for student health and safety.
- Failure to complete mandated and/or recommended stipulations/interventions (within the designated period) will normally result in revocation of judicial amnesty.
- In cases of repeated Drug & Alcohol Policy violations, the Institution reserves the right to take disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis - regardless of the manner in which the incident is reported. Further, the Institution reserves the right to adjudicate any case in which the violations are determined egregious.
- AIMS reserves the right to report truthfully to licensing bodies.

Support & Education Resources

AIMS EDUCATION (Main)

4500 New Brunswick Ave
Piscataway, NJ 08854
(908) 222-0002



Excellence & Success

AIMS EDUCATION (Edison)

2672 Woodbridge Ave
Edison, NJ 08837
(908) 222-0002, Ext. 400

Along with disciplinary consequences, AIMS is committed to providing resources and education - as appropriate - to assist members of the community. The school maintains Drug & Alcohol education information which can be obtained from the Student Affairs Coordinator. Students may also self-report drug & alcohol issues/concerns and/or voluntarily request confidential professional assistance without stigma or penalty by scheduling an appointment with the Student Affairs Coordinator or designee. The Institution also offers educational workshops/events through the campus wellness initiative - Aim for Wellness! (wellness@aimseducation.edu). Drug and Alcohol Counseling and Rehabilitation are available through www.drugfreenj.org or by calling 973-467-2100. The school's goal is to provide all students with effective and compassionate assistance before irreversible harm is done to their health, educational process, eligibility for licensure, or ability to function competently upon graduation.

Student Conduct Process

Students in violation of the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy are subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Student Conduct Committee. The student conduct process is intended to protect the interests of the AIMS community as well as its clinical partners/affiliates and address behavior inconsistent with the code of conduct. Interventions and sanctions are intended to assist the student in developing effective decision-making in accordance with community standards.

Note: Violations applicable to the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy will be adjudicated in accordance with the outlined potential consequences listed below. Drug & Alcohol Policy violations that involve additional Institutional Student Code of Conduct violations may also be subject to applicable Student Code of Conduct Policy sanctions.

Levels of Potential Consequences

Please Note: The summary of violations captures the more common alcohol and other drug offenses, but not all possible offenses.

First Offense

- Verbal warning with a written summary of discussion, recommended interventions, potential sanctions for recurring violations.
- Intervention Meeting with Student Affairs Coordinator or designee
- Follow-up meeting with Student Affairs Coordinator

Summary of violations:

- Underage possession and/or consumption of alcohol, possession of alcohol on campus, at an AIMS affiliated activity, etc.
- Possession and/or use of drugs, controlled substances, and/or paraphernalia; misuse/abuse of prescription drugs on campus, at an AIMS affiliated activity, etc.

Recurring or Severe Offense

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Level 1

- Written warning. *Warning remains on file indefinitely unless otherwise noted.
- Intervention Meeting with the Student Affairs Coordinator or designee
- Satisfactory completion of a defined drug or alcohol education program.

Level 2

- Written warning. *Warning remains on file indefinitely unless otherwise noted.
- Satisfactory completion of a recommended alcohol or drug counseling program.
- Periodic intervention meetings with Student Affairs Coordinator or designee
- **Disciplinary Probation** for an appropriately defined period of time, after which the student is eligible to return to normal status.

Level 3

Based on the severity of misconduct:

- **Temporary Suspension** - separation for a period not exceeding 5 days. Student is not allowed on campus during this period.

OR

- **Institutional Suspension** - separation for an appropriately defined period, after which the student is eligible to resume coursework.
- Satisfactory completion of a recommended alcohol or drug counseling program.
- Periodic intervention meetings with Student Affairs Coordinator or designee

Level 4

- **Expulsion** - academic separation from AIMS with no consideration for readmission.

Summary of violations:

- Drug Possession of controlled substance with an intention to distribute or deliver
- Distribution or delivery of controlled substance
- Distribution or delivery of prescription drug or inhalant
- DUI/DWI (drug or alcohol-related)
- Manufacture/growing controlled substance
- Supplying/providing/purchasing alcohol for underage students
- Public intoxication/disorderly conduct
- Possession of common containers and kegs
- Drinking games; possession of rapid consumption devices

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act requires institutions of higher education to develop a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program.

AIMS Education is a drug and smoke free campus for students, and employees, and has adopted and implemented programs and policies to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or



distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and staff. More information about this program is available on our website and through our administrative offices.

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 includes provisions that authorize federal and state judges to deny certain federal benefits, including student aid, to persons convicted of drug trafficking or possession. A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for FSA funds and render him/her ineligible for the funds until the Federal and State standards are again met by the individual.

Health Risks Associated with the Use and Abuse of Illicit Drugs and/or Alcohol

- The use of illegal drugs, and the misuse of prescription and other drugs, poses a serious threat to health.
- The use of marijuana may cause impairment of short-term memory, comprehension, and ability to perform tasks requiring concentration. Additionally, the use of marijuana also may cause lung damage, paranoia, and possible psychosis.
- The use of narcotics, depressants, stimulants, and hallucinogens may cause nervous system disorders and possible death as the result of an overdose. Illicit inhalants can cause liver damage.
- Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses of alcohol significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident.
- The use of even small amounts of alcohol by a pregnant woman can damage the fetus. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increases the likelihood of a variety of aggressive acts.
- Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairment in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Heavy use may result in chronic depression and suicide and may also be associated with the abuse of other drugs.
- Very high doses can cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce effects described above for very high doses.
- Long-term, heavy alcohol use can cause digestive disorders, cirrhosis of the liver, circulatory system disorders and impairment of the central nervous system, all of which may lead to early death.
- Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence, and at least 15-20 percent of heavy users eventually will become problem drinkers or alcoholics if they continue drinking.
- Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations and convulsions, which can be life threatening.
- There are significant risks associated with the use of alcohol and drugs. Risks include and are not limited to - impaired academic or work performance; lost potential; financial problems; poor concentration; blackouts; conflicts with friend and others; vandalism; theft; murder; sexual assault and other unplanned sexual relationships; spouse and child abuse; sexually transmitted diseases; and unusual or inappropriate risk-taking which may result in physical or emotional injury or death.

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Drug and Alcohol Programs - Counseling, Treatment, and Rehabilitation

Here is a list of drug and alcohol programs available in New Jersey.

- Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey
<http://www.drugfreenj.org/>
- Central Jersey Intergroup (Alcoholics Anonymous for Central Jersey)
<http://centraljerseyintergroup.org/>
- Alcoholics Anonymous
<https://www.aa.org/>
- Narcotics Anonymous
<https://www.nanj.org/>
- Substance Abuse Facilities in NJ
<https://www.addicted.org/new-jersey-long-term-drug-rehab.html>
- Advanced Recovery Systems
<https://www.drugrehab.com/>

Notice of Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

Convictions for the use or sale of drugs no longer affect a student's eligibility for federal student aid.

Notification of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

AIMS Education abides by The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students and employees of AIMS Education have received this policy which explains the following:

- Dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the school/workplace
- Policy maintaining a drug-free environment
- List of available drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation programs
- Penalties that may be imposed for drug and alcohol abuse violations occurring in the school

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**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PREVENTION
PROGRAM
BIENNIAL REVIEW
2020-2022**

Compiled in Compliance with the
Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulation (34 CFR Part 86)



By: Financial Aid Office



American Institute of Medical Sciences & Education
Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations
Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Certification

AIMS Education certifies that it has adopted and implemented an alcohol and other drug prevention program for its students and employees that, at a minimum, includes –

1) The annual distribution to each employee, and to each student who is attending AIMS Education regardless of the length of the student’s program of study:

- Standards of conduct that clearly prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on its property or as part of any of its activities
- A description of the applicable legal sanctions under local, State, or Federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol
- A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol
- A description of any drug or alcohol counseling, treatment or rehabilitation or re-entry programs that are available to employees or students
- A clear statement that the institution will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees (consistent with State and Federal law), and a description of those sanctions, up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, for violations of the standards of conduct. A disciplinary sanction may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program.

2) A biennial review by the institution of its alcohol and other drug prevention comprehensive program to:

- Determine its effectiveness and implement changes to its alcohol and other drug prevention program and policies, if they are needed
- Ensure that its disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

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Overview of AIMS Education's Commitment to Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs

➤ **Biennial Review Committee**

In support of the safety and health of its students and employees, and pursuant to its obligation to conduct a biennial review of its drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs, AIMS Education has authorized an administrative review of those programs to be completed every two years. The purpose of this review is to consider whether the school is meeting its regulations, to summarize the related policies, procedures and programs, and to recommend any appropriate enhancements to those policies, procedures, and programs.

Aims Education DAAPP Biennial Report is coordinated through the Financial Aid Department. The report is a collaborative effort between, Academics, Human Resources, and members of Faculty.

➤ **Current Program**

- **Employees:**

1. As part of employee orientation, all new employees receive the Drug & Alcohol policy
2. The policy is included in the employee handbook, and it is e-mailed to all employees on an annual basis.
3. The policy is posted and available on AIMS Education website
4. The policy is e-mailed to all employees on an annual basis.

- **Students:**

The following programs and initiatives are currently offered to assist students with prevention and risk reduction.

1. As part of student orientation, all new students receive the Drug & Alcohol policy
2. The policy is posted and available on AIMS Education website
3. The policy is included in the Student Catalog and it's Code of Conduct
4. The policy is e-mailed to all currently attending students on an annual basis.

The current Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy is included in Student and Employee Handbooks and is also available on AIMS website for employees and students.

AIMS education notifications are by way of its emailed ASR, website links, and information provided at student orientation and at the time of an employee's hiring, notifies of the following:

- Standards of conduct that clearly prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees



- A list of applicable legal sanctions under local, state, or federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol
- A description of the health risks associated with the abuse of alcohol or use of illicit drugs
- A list of drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation and reentry programs that are available to employees or students
- A clear statement regarding institutional sanctions on students and employees, and a description of those sanctions, up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, for violations of the standards of conduct.

➤ **Disciplinary Sanctions for Violation**

Sanctions for alcohol and drug violations vary depending on the nature of the specific violation. The following is a list of possible remedies and sanctions a student could receive for a violation:

- Verbal Warning to the offender that the conduct must stop, and any continuation may be a basis for more severe action.
- Written Warning-to the offender that the conduct must stop, and any continuation may be a basis for more severe action.
- Probation- notice that further violation of this Code may result in expulsion from the program of enrollment.

Any of the following may accompany a remedy and sanction:

- A court ordered community service assignment
- Referral to appropriate prevention facility, psychological or psychiatric service for evaluation, mandated assessment, or other special help.
- Other Educational Sanction: required educational program attendance, letters of apology consistent with the nature and severity of the violation(s), may be imposed.

Sanctions for alcohol and drug violations vary depending on the nature of the specific violation. The following is a list of possible remedies and sanctions an employee could receive for a violation:

- Employees who demonstrate a substance abuse problem may be given the option to seek assistance and thereby defer consideration of termination or other disciplinary action provided the employee adheres to the treatment plan set forth by his or her treatment provider. Employees who undergo voluntary counseling or treatment and who continue to work must meet all established standards of conduct and job performance.
- If an employee violates the policy, he or she may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including demotion, suspension, or termination. AIMS Education, in its discretion, may choose to not terminate an employee, and in such event, it, in addition to any disciplinary action, may refer the employee to a treatment and/or counseling program for substance abuse as part of a performance improvement plan



- Any employee convicted for violation of any criminal drug statute must immediately notify Human Resources in writing

➤ **Disciplinary Statistics and Discipline Imposed for Years 2020- 2022**

During 2020-2022 calendar years, 0 students faced disciplinary sanctions for alcohol and/or drug possession and/or use.

➤ **Notice of Penalties/Sanctions of Title IV DRUG LAW VIOLATIONS**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) includes a question that reads: "Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, loans, or work-study)?" The student self-certifies their answer to this question. The Office of Financial Aid is notified if a student admits to a conviction by the federal processor. The Office of Financial Aid must then determine if the conviction affects the student's eligibility. No financial aid can be processed until the office receives confirmation from the U.S. Department of Education that the student is eligible for financial aid. The U.S. Department of Education requires any convicted student to complete a qualified drug rehabilitation program, which must include two unannounced drug tests. FAFSA Management of Drug Abuse Prevention Program Requirements Relative to Federal Student Aid Students complete the FAFSA and self-certify if they have been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while they were receiving federal student aid.

- If a student self-certifies with a "no" response, then the student is eligible for aid.
- If a student self-certifies with a "yes" response, the Institutional Student Information Record has a comment code to indicate students that said "yes." This causes a checklist to populate for the student.
- Students are instructed to go back to the FAFSA to complete the Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet. Once the student has completed the worksheet, the student will be able to determine their eligibility date. Based on the results of the worksheet, a student can make required changes to the question on their FAFSA and take additional steps to notify their school, if required.

➤ **Copy of Distributed Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policy**

The current Drug & Alcohol Policy is included in the School Catalog and Employee Handbooks, and is available on the AIMS website, for all employees and students.

A copy of the policy that is distributed is incorporated into this report as Attachment A on the next page:



Drug and Alcohol Policy for Students

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Standards of Conduct

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- Prohibition against being under the influence of any controlled substance and/or alcoholic beverage on-campus, during AIMS sponsored or affiliated off-campus events and programs (meetings, etc.) and during off-campus educational experiences (clinical internships, Earn While You Learn, etc.).

Consequences of Violation of Policy

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Limitations:

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- In cases of repeated Drug & Alcohol Policy violations, the Institution reserves the right to take disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis - regardless of the manner in which the incident is reported. Further, the Institution reserves the right to adjudicate any case in which the violations are determined egregious.
- AIMS reserves the right to report truthfully to licensing bodies.

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Note: Violations applicable to the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy will be adjudicated in accordance with the outlined potential consequences listed below. Drug & Alcohol Policy violations that involve additional Institutional Student Code of Conduct violations may also be subject to applicable Student Code of Conduct Policy sanctions.

Levels of Potential Consequences

Please Note: The summary of violations captures the more common alcohol and other drug offenses, but not all possible offenses.

First Offense

- Verbal warning with a written summary of discussion, recommended interventions, potential sanctions for recurring violations.
- Intervention Meeting with Student Affairs Coordinator or designee
- Follow-up meeting with Student Affairs Coordinator

Summary of violations:

- Underage possession and/or consumption of alcohol, possession of alcohol on campus, at an AIMS affiliated activity, etc.
- Possession and/or use of drugs, controlled substances, and/or paraphernalia; misuse/abuse of prescription drugs on campus, at an AIMS affiliated activity, etc.

**Recurring or Severe Offense**Level 1

- Written warning. *Warning remains on file indefinitely unless otherwise noted.
- Intervention Meeting with the Student Affairs Coordinator or designee
- Satisfactory completion of a defined drug or alcohol education program.

Level 2

- Written warning. *Warning remains on file indefinitely unless otherwise noted.
- Satisfactory completion of a recommended alcohol or drug counseling program.
- Periodic intervention meetings with Student Affairs Coordinator or designee
- **Disciplinary Probation** for an appropriately defined period of time, after which the student is eligible to return to normal status.

Level 3

Based on the severity of misconduct:

- **Temporary Suspension** - separation for a period not exceeding 5 days. Student is not allowed on campus during this period.

OR

- **Institutional Suspension** - separation for an appropriately defined period, after which the student is eligible to resume coursework.
- Satisfactory completion of a recommended alcohol or drug counseling program.
- Periodic intervention meetings with Student Affairs Coordinator or designee

Level 4

- **Expulsion** - academic separation from AIMS with no consideration for readmission.

Summary of violations:

- Drug Possession of controlled substance with an intention to distribute or deliver
- Distribution or delivery of controlled substance
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- DUI/DWI (drug or alcohol-related)
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- Possession of common containers and kegs
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Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

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- The use of marijuana may cause impairment of short-term memory, comprehension, and ability to perform tasks requiring concentration. Additionally, the use of marijuana also may cause lung damage, paranoia, and possible psychosis.
- The use of narcotics, depressants, stimulants, and hallucinogens may cause nervous system disorders and possible death as the result of an overdose. Illicit inhalants can cause liver damage.
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- The use of even small amounts of alcohol by a pregnant woman can damage the fetus. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increases the likelihood of a variety of aggressive acts.
- Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairment in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Heavy use may result in chronic depression and suicide and may also be associated with the abuse of other drugs.
- Very high doses can cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce effects described above for very high doses.
- Long-term, heavy alcohol use can cause digestive disorders, cirrhosis of the liver, circulatory system disorders and impairment of the central nervous system, all of which may lead to early death.
- Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence, and at least 15-20 percent of heavy users eventually will become problem drinkers or alcoholics if they continue drinking.
- Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations and convulsions, which can be life threatening.
- There are significant risks associated with the use of alcohol and drugs. Risks include and are not limited to - impaired academic or work performance; lost potential; financial problems; poor concentration; blackouts; conflicts with friend and others; vandalism;



theft; murder; sexual assault and other unplanned sexual relationships; spouse and child abuse; sexually transmitted diseases; and unusual or inappropriate risk-taking which may result in physical or emotional injury or death.

Drug and Alcohol Programs - Counseling, Treatment, and Rehabilitation

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<https://www.addicted.org/new-jersey-long-term-drug-rehab.html>
- Advanced Recovery Systems
<https://www.drugrehab.com/>

Notice of Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

Convictions for the use or sale of drugs no longer affect a student’s eligibility for federal student aid.

Notification of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

AIMS Education abides by The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students and employees of AIMS Education have received this policy which explains the following:

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- List of available drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation programs
- Penalties that may be imposed for drug and alcohol abuse violations occurring in the school

As a Student / Employee (circle one) of AIMS Education, I have received and understand the above-mentioned Drug and Alcohol policy. I further understand that I am required to abide by all state and federal laws regulating controlled substances.

Student Name

Administrator Name

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

AIMS EDUCATION (Main)

4500 New Brunswick Ave
Piscataway, NJ 08854
(908) 222-0002



Excellence & Success

AIMS EDUCATION (Edison)

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