

Ohio – Penalties for Common Substance Abuse, Drug Trafficking, and Other Offenses

The College is committed to creating and maintaining an environment that is free of alcohol abuse. The College prohibits the possession, use, and sale of alcoholic beverages on campus or as any part of the College's activities unless it is done so in accordance with applicable College policies, and it also enforces the state's underage drinking laws.

The College enforces Federal and State drug laws. The possession, sale, manufacture, or distribution of illegal drugs is prohibited on campus or as any part of the College's activities. Violators of the College's policies or Federal and State laws regarding illegal drugs will be subject to disciplinary action and possibly criminal prosecution.

Federal Drug Laws (updated 08.05.2024)

Denial of Federal Benefits (21 U.S.C. § 862) A federal drug conviction may result in the loss of federal benefits, including loans, grants, scholarships, contracts, and licenses, although the Department of Education has said it will no longer disqualify students from Title IV aid for a federal or state conviction for possession or sale of a controlled substance.

Forfeiture of Personal Property and Real Estate (21 U.S.C. § 853) Any person convicted of a federal drug offense punishable by more than one year in prison shall forfeit to the United States any personal or real property related to the violation. A warrant of seizure may be issued and property seized at the time an individual is arrested on charges that may result in forfeiture.

Federal Drug Trafficking Penalties (21 U.S.C. § 841) Penalties for federal drug trafficking convictions vary according to the type and quantity of the controlled substance involved in the transaction. Penalties for subsequent convictions are more severe. Federally-defined schedules of controlled substances are published at 21 U.S.C. 812.

In the case of a controlled substance in schedule I or schedule II, GHB (or, "liquid ecstasy"), or flunitrazepam (or, "rohypnol"), a person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 20 years. If death or serious bodily injury results from the use of a controlled substance which has been illegally distributed, the person convicted on federal charges of distributing the substance faces the possibility of a life sentence and fines ranging up to \$10 million.

In the case of a controlled substance in schedule III, a person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years, and if death or serious bodily injury results, shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 15 years or a fine not to exceed \$500,000, or both, for a first offense.

For less than 50 kilograms of marijuana, the term of imprisonment shall not be more than five years, and the fine shall not be more than \$250,000, or both, for a first offense.

In the case of a schedule IV substance, the term of imprisonment shall not be more than five years, and the fine shall not be more than \$250,000, or both, for a first offense.

Persons convicted on federal charges of drug trafficking within 1,000 feet of an elementary school, secondary school, college, or university (21 U.S.C. § 860) face penalties of prison terms and fines which are twice as high as the regular penalties for the offense, with a mandatory prison sentence of at least one year, unless the offense involves five grams or less of marijuana.

Federal Drug Possession Penalties (21 U.S.C. § 844) Persons convicted on federal charges of possessing any controlled substance face penalties of up to one year in prison, a mandatory fine of no less than \$1,000, or both. Second convictions are punishable by not less than 15 days but not more than two years in prison and a minimum fine of \$2,500. Subsequent convictions are punishable by not less than 90 days but not more than three years in prison and a minimum fine of \$5,000.

*For the most recent and complete Federal Trafficking Penalties information, visit the website of the <u>U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration</u>.

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Drug and Alcohol State Laws (Ohio)

Category	Summary (Ohio Revised Code)
Possession of Marijuana	Individuals who are at least 21 years of age are allowed to possess, purchase, and transport up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana and up to 15 grams of marijuana concentrates. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3780.01, 3780.36. Possessing more than 2.5 ounces but less than 100 grams of marijuana is a minor misdemeanor which results in a \$150 fine. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3780.99, 2925.11(C)(3). Possessing more than 100 grams comes with increasing penalties. See Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2925.11. The sale of marijuana constitutes a felony of the fifth degree, with a penalty of six to twelve months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$2,500. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2925.03, 2929.18, 2929.14. Medical marijuana use is also permitted under certain conditions. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3796.01-3796.30.
Controlled Substances	Ohio has a wide range of laws governing controlled substances and their possession and distribution. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2925.01-2925.64. Penalties vary widely based on the amount and type of substance used and the presence of prior offenses. Under Ohio law, no person shall knowingly obtain, possess, or use a controlled substance. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2925.11. Possession of certain drugs, like cocaine, LSD, and heroin, results in a charge of aggravated possession of drugs, generally a fifth-degree felony. <i>Id.</i> The penalties increase for the possession of larger amounts of drugs, for instance, possession of 12 grams of cocaine would constitute a third-degree felony, punishable by imprisonment for nine to 36 months and a fine of up to \$10,000. <i>Id.</i>
	Selling or offering to sell a controlled substance is also illegal. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2925.03. Penalties vary based on the type and quantity of the substance, as well as the number of prior offenses and the location of the sale or offer to sell. <i>Id.</i> ; see also Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§, 2929.13, 2929.18.
Alcohol and Minors	No person under the age of 21 shall purchase beer or intoxicating liquor. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4301.63. Doing so can result in a fine between \$25–\$100. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4301.99. Providing false information concerning one's name, age, or other identification for the purpose of obtaining alcohol is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable on the first offense by a fine between \$250–\$1000 if a false or altered identification card or driver's license was used. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 4301.634; 4301.99(F). Subsequent offenses result in increased penalties. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4301.99(F). Generally, no person shall sell beer or intoxicating liquor to an underage person, shall buy beer or intoxicating liquor for an underage person, or shall furnish it to an underage person. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4301.69. Violations constitute a misdemeanor with a fine of \$500 to \$1,000 and potential imprisonment for up to six months. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4301.69, 4301.99.
Driving Under the Influence (DUI)	No person shall operate a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them, with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more, or with various specified concentrations of controlled substances in their system. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4511.19. Operating under the influence generally constitutes a first-degree misdemeanor and results in a mandatory prison term of at least 3 days, a mandatory fine of \$525 to \$1,625, driver's license suspension for one to seven years, and the possibility of an intervention program. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4511.19. If a person under the age of 21 drives with a blood alcohol concentration of at least 0.02 percent, they will have their driver's license suspended and are guilty of a fourth-degree misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250. <i>Id.</i> Penalties for driving under the influence increase for subsequent offenses. <i>Id.</i>

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