

Medical Amnesty Aug. 2013 – Oct. 22, 2013

The dean of students office is committed to providing support and assistance to students struggling with issues related to substance use. Students who come forward to actively seek help when they are concerned about their own use or that of their friends and/or acquaintances will not face **disciplinary action** related to substance use. The goal of this policy is to decrease the likelihood that a student will hesitate to seek help in an alcohol or drug-related emergency. Medical amnesty encourages safety and responsibility throughout the community and promotes education/treatment for individuals who receive emergency medical attention to reduce the likelihood of future occurrences.

In cases of alcohol and drug intoxication, the primary concern is the health and safety of the individual(s) involved. Individuals are strongly encouraged to call for emergency medical assistance (x5555 from an on campus phone, on campus or from a cell phone 911) for themselves or for another member of the community who is dangerously intoxicated.

How to Receive Medical Amnesty

Students seeking emergency medical assistance for alcohol and drug overuse will be granted no more than one-time amnesty and will not be subject to **disciplinary sanctions** for the sole violation of using or possessing the substance. Medical amnesty is not automatic and is earned only once a student has done the following:

- Met with the house staff at their request
- Met with a designee of the dean of students at their request
- Successfully complete any educational/wellness follow-up steps discussed in either of the above meetings

Failure to complete any of the follow-up steps will be grounds for **disciplinary action**.

Students granted amnesty will not be exempt from **disciplinary action** resulting from other policies they violate while under the influence. Students will be expected to take responsibility for any negative impact their behaviors had on others or the environment (e.g., property damage, noise complaints, medical transport).

FAQ about Medical Amnesty

What is the Purpose of Medical Amnesty?

The **dean of students office** values the health and well-being of our community members above all else. Medical amnesty seeks to decrease the likelihood that a student will hesitate to seek help in an alcohol-related emergency by granting amnesty from **disciplinary action** to those involved in seeking help.

Medical amnesty promotes safety and responsibility throughout the community. The policy also promotes education/treatment for individuals who receive emergency medical attention to reduce the likelihood of future occurrences.

How Does Medical Amnesty Work?

Typically, medical amnesty applies only to the person in need of medical assistance and to those who assist in the seeking of medical assistance. Individuals seeking medical treatment for themselves or for another student in an alcohol- or drug-related medical emergency will be granted amnesty from **disciplinary action** pertaining to their substance use. Other outcomes, such as education and treatment, may be required.

Medical amnesty applies only to violations of the **Alcohol and Other Drugs policy** as outlined in *Non Satis Non Scire*. It does not grant amnesty for criminal, civil, or legal consequences for violations of federal, state, or local law.

Students will not be granted amnesty from **disciplinary action** resulting from other policies they violate while under the influence of alcohol. For example, if a student becomes intoxicated and injures themselves in the process of punching a hole in a window (or damages any College property), the student would not be subject to **disciplinary action** for being intoxicated but could still be held responsible for **vandalism**.

Follow-up evaluations and counseling are fundamental components of medical amnesty. Amnesty is applied only when students complete appropriate counseling and treatment as recommended. Failure to complete any evaluation, counseling, or treatment within the timeline outlined will result in **disciplinary action**.

Can a Student Be Granted Medical Amnesty More Than Once?

Medical Amnesty is only granted one time. If an individual requires additional emergency medical assistance, it may be a sign that the student is unable to maintain a safe and healthy lifestyle and needs assistance beyond what we can provide here at Hampshire. The goal of this program is for the student, in conjunction with the **dean of students office** staff and **health and counseling services** staff, to set a plan in place for the student to get help, get healthy, and return to the campus when ready.