The Community College of Aurora supports the efforts of local, state, and federal governments in promoting drug-free America. Drug and alcohol abuse cause numerous problems in the domestic and working worlds. The challenges faced by our country cannot be effectively dealt with unless individuals work collectively in combating the problems caused by drug and alcohol abuse. The effects of drug and alcohol abuse are most damaging to the physiological and psychological systems of the human body. Through active abuse, a person is placing harmful toxins in his/her body which can cause illness and impact one’s ability to work and function fully in society. Awareness, education, and intervention all are components of addressing the problems created by substance abuse in our communities and country. Chronic alcohol abuse affects most major organ systems of the body, most notably the cardiovascular system and nervous system. Chronic alcohol abuse over a period years can result in brain damage that can be irreversible. Drug abuse follows a similar pattern of degeneration of the body’s major organ systems. Both alcohol and drug abuse can lead to death and are a major cause of automobile fatalities on our roads and highways each year.

The Community College of Aurora adheres to and supports the legislation and laws enacted by the federal, state, and local governments addressing the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. Any person who is involved in these activities on campus will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Further sanction, such as suspension and expulsion from college, may be deemed necessary.

The Community College of Aurora’s mission is to provide educational opportunities for citizens of the Aurora area. The college cannot permit any individual to impede this process for the student enrolled at the college. All students, faculty, and staff of the college must abide by the laws of the state and nation; any infringement of this through the use of drugs and alcohol on campus is strictly forbidden. The college provides referral information about substance abuse for interested students. For more information about programs offered, please contact the CARE Program at (303) 340-7524, Angela.Tiedeman@CCAurora.edu, or visit the Office of Student Conduct, Intervention & Retention, at the CentreTech Campus, Administration Building.
Laws Related to Drug & Alcohol Use and Sale

Community College of Aurora will take immediate action if any student or employee is violating a law related to the use and sale of alcohol and/or drugs.

- The possession, sale, and use of any illegal drug are strictly prohibited on the CCA Campuses. Any violations will be immediately referred to Aurora or Denver Police Departments. Alcohol sale, use, and possession are dictated by Colorado law and CCA Policies and Procedures. CCA will strictly enforce these laws and policies. The following applies to all students, employees, and guests of the College:

• The sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited except in designated areas, at times and dates approved by CCA Administrators and licensed by the Colorado State Department of Revenue.

• Persons under 21 years of age cannot legally possess or consume malt (6 percent beer), fermented malt liquor (3.2 percent beer), or wine or hard liquor. The furnishing of alcoholic beverages to underage persons is prohibited.

• No person under legal drinking age nor any obviously intoxicated person shall be furnished, served, or given an alcoholic beverage.

• Alcohol cannot be consumed or carried in open containers on any street, sidewalk, alley, automobile, or public area.

Community College of Aurora does not endorse any one treatment program or facility; however, a comprehensive listing of resources for the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse can be found in your local phone book yellow pages under “Alcoholism” and under “Drug Abuse Information & Treatment”.

Health Risks

Substance abuse may result in a wide array of serious health and behavioral problems. Substance abuse has both long and short-term effects on the body and the mind. Alcohol and drugs are toxic to the human body. In addition to the problem of toxicity, contaminant poisonings often occur with illegal drug use. HIV infection with intravenous drug use is a prevalent hazard. Acute health problems may include heart attack, stroke, and sudden death, which can occur for first time cocaine users. Long lasting effects caused by drug and alcohol abuse can cause problems such as disruption of normal heart rhythm, high blood pressure, leaks of blood vessels in the brain, bleeding and destruction of brain cells, possible memory loss, infertility, impotency, immune system impairment, kidney failure, cirrhosis of the liver, and pulmonary damage. Drug use during pregnancy may result in fetal damage and birth defects causing hyperactivity, neurological abnormalities, and developmental difficulties.

Legal Sanctions

Any student convicted of the unlawful manufacture, distribution, purchase, dispensation, possession, use or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol is subject to criminal penalties under local, state or federal law. These penalties range in severity from a fine of $100 to $8,000,000 and/or life imprisonment. The exact penalty assessed depends upon the nature and severity of the individual offense. In addition, violation of the student code of conduct could result in legal sanctions for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.