
Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

Detailed notice and resource guide | Art Academy of Cincinnati | 2026–27

Purpose and audience

This guide explains the Art Academy of Cincinnati’s alcohol and drug standards, legal consequences, health risks, available help and institutional sanctions for students and employees. It covers AAC property and AAC activities, including activities away from campus. The short AAC Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Notice is a companion summary; the current Academic Catalog and Employee Handbook contain the governing institutional procedures.

Federal regulation 34 CFR § 86.100 requires written annual distribution of the required information to each employee and each student taking classes for academic credit. The regulation also requires a biennial review of program effectiveness and consistent enforcement. AAC’s responsible offices should retain evidence of each distribution and review as required by 34 CFR § 86.103.

1 Standards of conduct

AAC prohibits unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of controlled substances and alcohol on AAC property or in an AAC activity. The student Alcohol and Drug Policy and Code of Student Conduct appear in the 2026–27 Academic Catalog. Employees are also subject to the Drug Free Workplace and Substance Abuse policy in the Employee Handbook.

AAC prohibits marijuana on its premises and at its events, including adult-use and medical marijuana, even where possession or use may otherwise be permitted by Ohio law. Students may not attend AAC activities while inebriated. Employees may not work while impaired; the handbook also restricts alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana and drug paraphernalia on AAC property, in AAC vehicles and while performing job duties. Prescription and over-the-counter medicines must be used lawfully and as directed; another person’s prescription may not be possessed or distributed.

Licensed alcohol service at AAC events

AAC holds an Ohio liquor permit. AAC-approved exhibitions, receptions and other events may include alcohol service only in the locations and circumstances authorized by the applicable permit and Ohio law. Alcohol brought in by others requires AAC’s prior case-by-case approval under the current Academic Catalog. The contracted bartender required by the catalog must manage service, inspect valid identification and refuse service to anyone under 21, intoxicated or presenting questionable identification. No person under 21 may receive or consume alcohol at an AAC event, even if an Ohio statutory exception might otherwise apply.

Before arranging service, the event organizer should confirm the licensed area, permitted beverages, approved hours, sales or service arrangement and any additional authorization needed for a location outside the permit’s scope. A liquor permit does not by itself authorize alcohol service in every AAC space or off-campus venue. Ohio RC § 4301.22 restricts service to intoxicated people and generally bars permit holders from giving away alcohol in connection with their business, subject to narrow statutory exceptions. Employee consumption at a College function is allowed under the handbook only when and where management specifically authorizes it, and must be responsible.

2 Legal sanctions

A violation of alcohol or drug law can lead to investigation or prosecution in addition to AAC discipline. Outcomes depend on the facts, substance and amount, age, prior record and applicable local rules. These examples summarize Ohio and federal law; the linked statutes provide the controlling text.

Conduct	Examples of applicable law and possible consequences
Underage alcohol	Ohio RC §§ 4301.69 and 4301.99 prohibit most underage purchase, possession and consumption, and restrict furnishing to anyone under 21. Unlawful underage possession or consumption may be a third-degree misdemeanor; furnishing can carry fines and possible jail time. AAC does not allow service to people under 21 at its events.
Permitted service / open containers / driving	Ohio RC § 4301.22 restricts permit holders, including furnishing to an intoxicated person. Section 4301.62 limits open containers, subject to exceptions. Section 4511.19 prohibits operating a vehicle under the influence and may lead to criminal penalties and license suspension.
Controlled substances	Ohio RC § 2925.11 addresses unauthorized possession or use; § 2925.03 addresses trafficking. Offense levels and penalties vary widely by drug, quantity and circumstances, and may include imprisonment.
Marijuana	Ohio law permits certain regulated activity for adults 21 and older but imposes age and location limits. AAC's campus prohibition applies separately; Ohio RC §§ 3796.06 and 3796.28 address medical marijuana matters.
Federal offenses	21 USC § 844 addresses simple possession, including up to a year of incarceration and a minimum \$1,000 fine for a first conviction. Manufacturing, distribution and possession with intent under 21 USC § 841 can carry substantially greater penalties depending on drug and facts.

3 Health risks

Alcohol and other drugs can affect judgment, safety, learning and work. Effects differ by dose, health, other substances and individual vulnerability. Medical treatment is available, and a suspected overdose is an emergency.

Substance or pattern	Examples of short- and longer-term harm
Alcohol	Impaired coordination and judgment, injury and alcohol poisoning; dependence, liver and heart disease and increased cancer risk. Heavy use followed by abrupt cessation can cause medically dangerous withdrawal.
Opioids, including fentanyl	Sleepiness, slowed breathing, dependence and fatal overdose. Counterfeit pills may contain unanticipated opioids. Mixing with alcohol or sedatives increases overdose danger.
Sedatives and misused medications	Sedation, memory problems, impaired driving and overdose risk, particularly with alcohol or opioids. Use prescribed medications only as directed and do not share them.
Stimulants	Anxiety, sleep problems, dangerous heart rate or blood pressure changes, and in some cases psychosis or dependence.
Cannabis	Impaired memory, attention, coordination and driving; anxiety or dependence for some people. AAC prohibits marijuana on its premises and at AAC events.
Multiple substances	Effects may be unpredictable. Alcohol combined with opioids or sedatives can suppress breathing and cause a fatal overdose.

If someone is unconscious, breathing slowly or may have overdosed, call 911 immediately and do not leave the person alone. For a mental health or substance use crisis, call or text 988.

4 Counseling, treatment and recovery

Students may contact Student Affairs at 513-562-6260 for information about AAC counseling and wellness resources and referrals. Employees may contact Human Resources through AAC's main number, 513-562-6262, for information on the confidential Employee Assistance Program described in Employee Handbook § 5.4. Service eligibility, confidentiality terms and costs should be confirmed with the specific provider.

Cincinnati's Center for Addiction Treatment offers assessment, detoxification and treatment information at 513-381-6672. FindTreatment.gov lists treatment options. The 988 Lifeline can provide immediate crisis support by call or text; call 911 for imminent danger or suspected overdose. External providers determine fees and insurance coverage.

5 AAC disciplinary action

AAC will impose appropriate sanctions under its student and employee procedures and applicable law, and may refer suspected criminal conduct to law enforcement. Student sanctions may include a warning, loss of privileges, restitution, a fine where the Student Code permits one, probation, educational or treatment requirements, suspension or expulsion. The Student Code describes notice, decision and appeal procedures; student organizations may also face action under AAC rules.

The Employee Handbook states that violating its Drug Free Workplace and Substance Abuse policy may result in discipline up to and including immediate termination. It also addresses testing and consequences of refusal, untimely specimen provision or interference with testing. Decisions follow applicable policies and law. Authorized alcohol service at an event does not excuse impairment at work, service to a person under 21, or other misconduct.

Program documents and review

For complete student rules, consult the 2026–27 Academic Catalog, including the Alcohol and Drug Policy, Substance Abuse Education resources and Code of Student Conduct. Employees may request the current Employee Handbook from Human Resources; relevant provisions include §§ 5.4 and 7.2–7.4. AAC's prevention program is subject to a biennial review under 34 CFR § 86.100(b), with records available as specified in § 86.103. Statutes, contacts and permit conditions should be checked before each annual distribution or event.

Primary sources and services

The following links open the source materials directly. Legal references checked September 25, 2026. The AAC Employee Handbook is available from Human Resources.

[AAC 2026–27 Academic Catalog](#)

AAC Employee Handbook, §§ 5.4 and 7.2–7.4: request from Human Resources.

[AAC Consumer Information](#)

[34 CFR § 86.100](#)

[34 CFR § 86.103](#)

[Ohio RC § 4301.69](#)

[Ohio RC § 4301.22](#)

[Ohio RC § 4301.99](#)

[Ohio RC § 4301.62](#)

[Ohio RC § 4511.19](#)

[Ohio RC § 2925.11](#)

[Ohio RC § 2925.03](#)

[Ohio RC § 3796.06](#)

[Ohio RC § 3796.28](#)

[21 USC § 844](#)

[21 USC § 841](#)

[CDC alcohol health effects](#)

[CDC overdose prevention](#)

[Center for Addiction Treatment](#)

[FindTreatment.gov](#)

[988 Lifeline](#)