

Medical Marijuana Policy

Questions about this policy may be directed to the Dean of Students Office, 395-7800

Medical marijuana which is prescribed for healing purposes is prohibited at Hope College even though there may be state laws which permit its use.

Background: Hope College received federal funding through Title IV in the form of student financial aid (grants, loans, and work-study programs) and through federal research grants. As a condition of accepting this money, Hope College is required to certify that it complies with the Drug-Free Schools, and Communities Act (DFSCA) (20 U.S.C. 1145g part 86 of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Regulations). The federal government regulates drugs through the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) (21 U.S.C. A 811) which does not recognize the difference between medical recreational use of marijuana. Thus to comply with the Federal Drug Free School and Communities Act and avoid losing federal funding, Hope College must prohibit all marijuana use, including medical marijuana, and provide sanctions for its use.

Loss of Student Eligibility for Federal Aid due to Drug Conviction

Questions about this policy may be directed to the Office of Financial Aid, 395-7765

The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 include a student eligibility provision related to drug offenses. A student is ineligible for federal student aid if convicted, under federal or state law, of any offense involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance during a period of enrollment in which federal student aid was received. Federal aid can be grants, student loans, and/or college work study. The period of ineligibility begins on the date of conviction and lasts until the end of a statutorily specified period. The student may regain eligibility early by completing a drug rehabilitation program or if the conviction is overturned.

Section 484, Higher Education Act of 1965, detailing the suspension of eligibility for drug-related offenses and rehabilitation, follows:

Suspension of Eligibility for Drug-Related Offenses.

1. In general. - A student who has been convicted of any offense under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance shall not be eligible to receive any grant, loan, or work assistance under this title during the period beginning on the date of such conviction and ending after the interval specified in the following table:

If convicted of an offense involving:

The possession of a controlled substance:

Ineligibility period is:	First offense	1 year
	Second offense	2 years
	Third offense	Indefinite

The sale of a controlled substance:

Ineligibility period is:	First offense	2 years
	Second offense	Indefinite