

**Resolutions for Changes to the Hokie Handbook ([www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu](http://www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu))  
Expansion of the Drug Policy for Student Code of Conduct**

Effective Date: Immediately upon approval by the Board of Visitors

**WHEREAS**, The University Student Conduct System “plays a key role in educating students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders about community expectations and values,” and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Student Conduct at Virginia Tech is “to partner with Virginia Tech community members to address a student’s conduct inconsistent with university expectations,” and

**WHEREAS**, the University Student Conduct System strives to guide students toward healthier lifestyle choices and connect them to resources and opportunities to assist them in creating healthier choices, and

**WHEREAS**, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has shared that the prevalence of abuse, misuse, and diversion from approved medical uses of prescription medications is concerning, and

**WHEREAS**, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that over 52 million persons in the United States age 12 or older had used prescription drugs non-medically at least once in their lifetime, and

**WHEREAS**, the Student Code of Conduct specifically states that “Virginia Tech does not condone the misuse or abuse of controlled substances,” and

**WHEREAS**, currently stated in the Student Code of Conduct, “misuse and abuse of illegal drugs is in direct conflict with the goals and objectives of any educational institution,” and

**WHEREAS**, the current illegal drug policy (contained in the Student Code of Conduct) addresses the illegal use, possession, manufacturing, distribution, and selling of illegal drugs, and

**WHEREAS**, current policy noticeably has “misuse” and “abuse” missing from the illegal drug policy, and

**WHEREAS**, similar to the alcohol beverage policy, students can legally consume a substance and be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct if the substance is misused or abused,

**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that Policy #8300, Student Code of Conduct – “Drug” Policy be amended as follows:

**Student Code of Conduct – Controlled Substances - Existing**

The illegal use or possession of any controlled substance is strictly prohibited by the university. The illegal use of controlled substances is incompatible with the goals of the academic community. Students found responsible for possessing, using, manufacturing, possessing with intent to manufacture, selling, dispensing, or distributing any illegal drug or substance controlled under state or federal law is prohibited. Possession of used or unused drug paraphernalia is also prohibited (unless there is a documented medical need). Students can be suspended or dismissed from the university for a first offense. Students who are also university employees are also subject to disciplinary job action.

**Student Code of Conduct – Controlled Substances - Amended**

The illegal use or possession of any controlled substance is strictly prohibited by the university. The illegal use of controlled substances is incompatible with the goals of the academic community. Illegally possessing, using, manufacturing, possessing with intent to manufacture, selling, dispensing, or distributing any substance controlled under state or federal law is prohibited. Possession of used or unused drug paraphernalia is also prohibited (unless there is a documented medical need). Additionally, misusing and abusing medications or prescribed medications (controlled under state or federal law) is prohibited. Students can be suspended or dismissed from the university for a first offense. Students who are also university employees are also subject to employee discipline.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution for changes to University Policies for Student Life: Modifications to the Expansion of the Drug Policy for Student Code of Conduct be approved.

August 29, 2016