



**Policy Title**  
Chemical Dependency

**Identifier**  
USCSOMG – STAF – 8.02

<b>Prepared by:</b> Office for Student Affairs	
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Associate Dean for Student Affairs	<b>Review Date:</b> 11/14/2024
<b>Approved by:</b> USCSOMG Policy Committee	<b>Approval Date:</b> 02/17/2025
	<b>Effective Date:</b> 02/17/2025

**LCME Standards**

10.6 – Content of Informational Materials  
12.3 – Personal Counseling / Well-Being Programs

**Scope**

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville students

**Policy Statement**

The USC School of Medicine Greenville recognizes that chemical dependency represents a problem of national proportions and that medical students are at increased risk.

The USC School of Medicine Greenville is therefore committed to:

- Providing an integrated substance use and misuse disorder curriculum to medical students as a component of their medical education
- Promoting student wellness by identifying and assisting students who are chemically dependent
- Providing medical students with information regarding confidential chemical dependency treatment programs that will not jeopardize their professional career goals.

**Reason for Policy**

To provide USC School of Medicine Greenville students with clarity on chemical dependency.

**Definitions**

- **Substance abuse:** Characterized by the insidious, progressive and often patterned use of alcohol or a drug consumed in amounts and/or via methods which are harmful and potentially life-threatening.
- **Impairment:** Recurring difficulty associated with alcohol or drug abuse/misuse; Problems occur several domains, including interpersonal (family or other relationships), educational, legal, financial or medical.

- **Substance abuse/misuse range of behaviors include:**
  - Absences from class, clinical clerkships and electives
  - Repeated tardiness in the initiation or completion of assigned responsibilities
  - Binge drinking
  - Unprofessional behavior while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
  - Traffic accidents and arrests for driving under the influence
  - Unsuccessful attempts to reduce chemical use
  - Receipt of criticism about alcohol and/or drug use from family members, fellow students, faculty members, medical residents and other clinical supervisors
  - Continued alcohol and/or drug use despite adverse consequences

## **Procedures**

Every student entering or continuing his/her studies in the USC School of Medicine Greenville acknowledges and consents to taking a drug screen administered for probable cause or as a requirement for a rotation or educational activity.

The USC School of Medicine Greenville respects the right to confidentiality of recovering students and will assist them to continue their education. Impaired students who fail to cooperate with appropriate treatment programs are subject to disciplinary actions up to and including dismissal.

## **Sanctions**

Students whose drug and/or alcohol use impedes academic progress and clinical training, leads to breaches of professional conduct and/or leads to arrests and criminal charges will face sanctions from the USC School of Medicine Greenville.

The USC School of Medicine Greenville adheres to the [USC Student Code of Conduct](#) and the partner health system Drug Free Workplace: Human Resources – Prisma Health – Version 6. A medical student who by inappropriate behavior, appearance or work performance as determined by associates, team members or faculty of the school provides reasonable suspicion that the Drug Free Workplace policy has been violated will be suspended from patient contact and placed on administrative leave by the Associate Dean for Medical Education, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, or the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs pending evaluation by the Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee (SEPC). SEPC will recommend a Behavioral Monitoring plan to ensure the wellness of the student and patients. Behavioral Monitoring plans include but are not limited to:

- Mandated counseling at Partner Health System Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Required random drug and alcohol screening
- Other required treatments as stipulated

The student will not be able to participate in clinical work until their drug and alcohol screens are negative. Once drug and alcohol screens are negative, SEPC and the Office for Student Affairs will assess the student's readiness to resume clinical responsibilities.

## **Additional Contacts**

Office for Medical Education  
Office for Student Affairs  
Biomedical Science Faculty  
Clerkship Directors and Coordinators  
Partner Health System Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

## **Related Information**

USC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook

## History

Date of Change	Change
February 2025	Updated to specify the individuals responsible for placing the student on administrative leave. Revised to strengthen the language; provide clarity.
July 2024	Updates to branding and titles, formal approval not required.
July 2019	Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles; formal approval not required.
July 2018	Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI