

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



# Policy of the University of the Free State on the Prevention and Regulation of Substance Abuse Among Students

*Approved at Council, 19 June 2025*

<b>POLICY STATEMENT</b>	
<b>1. Preamble/ Background</b>	<p>1.1 Substance abuse is generally associated with many risks that could influence the well-being of individuals, and negatively affects the learning, development and success of students.</p> <p>1.2 The World Health Organization refers to substance abuse as the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol, cannabis, and illicit drugs, for other than medicinal purposes which impairs the physical, mental, emotional, or social well-being of the user, as well as their families and communities.</p> <p>1.3 It is therefore essential for the UFS to prevent substance abuse and distribution of harmful and illegal substances amongst students, and to protect the quality of the educational environment.</p> <p>1.4. In line with the <i>Cannabis for Private Purposes Act, 2024</i>, the UFS recognises that while private cannabis use in private dwellings is permitted under South African law, such use and possession remain strictly prohibited on university premises and at university-sponsored or supervised events and activities.</p>
<b>2. Purpose</b>	<p>2.1 The UFS recognises the negative impact that substance abuse (whether controlled or illicit) could have on the well-being of students and the quality of the educational environment. A controlled substance is any drug or chemical listed in the schedules of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act 140 of 1992 or the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act 101 of 1965, regulated due to risks of abuse, dependence, or harm. Control measures restrict unauthorised possession, sale or use.</p> <p>2.2 The UFS Vision 130 furthermore acknowledges the immutable values of excellence, innovation and impact, accountability, care, and social justice, that shape and inform the UFS culture and provide a framework for the institution's actions and decisions. The UFS is committed to creating circumstances that are not only conducive to high quality teaching, learning, and scholarship, but doing this in ways that emphasise the well-being and happiness of the UFS community. In the pursuit of social justice, the university also seeks to advance the values of human dignity through ethical and transparent institutional responsiveness.</p> <p>2.3 The purpose of this policy is therefore to support and promote the UFS values of care and social justice by creating circumstances that are conducive to the academic thriving, well-being, happiness and human dignity of our student community.</p> <p>2.4 The policy aims to achieve this through establishing shared responsibility amongst the entire university community to protect the student population against substance abuse and its negative impact.</p>

	<p>2.5. The policy also aims to ensure alignment with evolving national legislation, such as the Cannabis for Private Purposes Act 7 of 2024, and to clarify that campus spaces are not considered private under this Act.</p>
<p><b>3. Scope</b></p>	<p>3.1 This policy applies to all registered students at the UFS, irrespective of their age, status, academic seniority, or campus location. It also applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1.1 UFS activities/functions</li> <li>3.1.2 UFS property</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Definitions and Abbreviations</b></p>	<p><b>Alcohol/Liquor</b>  A liquor product as defined in Section 1 of the Liquor Products Act 60 of 1989; Beer or Traditional African Beer; any other substance or drink declared to be liquor under section 42(2)(a) of the Liquor Act 59 of 2003.</p> <p><b>Campus Property</b>  UFS property means all grounds, buildings, rooms, auditoriums, facilities, stadiums, or other space or improvements that are owned, leased, used, or otherwise controlled by the UFS. This includes but is not limited to academic and auxiliary buildings, classrooms, laboratories, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, roofs, meeting rooms, hallways, lobbies and other common areas, conference facilities, athletics complexes and facilities, exterior open spaces, driveways, loading docks, sidewalks and walkways.</p> <p><b>Consumption</b>  “Consumption” means the act of ingesting, inhaling, injecting, absorbing, or otherwise introducing into the body any substance, including but not limited to alcoholic beverages, cannabis (whether smoked or otherwise administered), prescription or non-prescription medication, and any illicit or controlled substances, irrespective of form or method of administration. This includes the use of substances in a manner that is unauthorised, inconsistent with applicable statutory prescriptions, or contrary to the express instructions of a licensed medical practitioner. For clarity, any such conduct that constitutes illicit substance abuse or controlled substance abuse, as defined in this policy, shall fall within the scope of “consumption.” This definition expressly includes the use of e-cigarettes, vaping devices, or other means of substance administration on UFS premises or at UFS-affiliated events, all of which are prohibited in accordance with the UFS' designation of its campuses as cannabis-free and substance-regulated zones.</p> <p><b>Distribution</b>  For the purposes of this policy, “distribution” shall mean any act, whether actual or attempted, by which a person unlawfully delivers, transfers, or otherwise conveys possession or control of a controlled or illicit substance to another individual, irrespective of whether remuneration or consideration is involved. Distribution shall include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Actual distribution – the physical transfer of a controlled or illicit substance from one person to another;</li> </ul>

b) Constructive distribution – circumstances where intent to distribute may be reasonably inferred from the actions of the individual, the quantity or packaging of the substances found in the individual's possession, or other objective indicia indicative of intent to distribute;

c) Attempted distribution – any conduct amounting to an overt act in furtherance of a transfer of a controlled or illicit substance to another individual, regardless of whether such transfer is ultimately completed. This definition encompasses all forms of distribution prohibited by applicable local, provincial, or national laws, and applies equally to substances classified under this policy as part of controlled substance abuse or illicit substance abuse. Distribution is strictly prohibited on all UFS premises and at any UFS-affiliated event.

**Good Samaritan Principle**

Drawing from the definition provided by the Oxford English Dictionary, a good Samaritan is a person who gives help and sympathy to people who need it.

**Intoxication**

"Intoxication" refers to a condition, whether voluntarily or involuntarily induced, in which an individual experiences a narcotic effect or other psychoactive impairment resulting from the ingestion, inhalation, injection, absorption, or administration of alcohol, cannabis, or any other intoxicating substance, whether legally or illegally obtained. A narcotic effect, in this context, shall mean a state wherein the individual's normal physical or mental faculties are materially diminished, such that judgment, coordination, perception, or self-control is substantially impaired. This definition shall be applicable irrespective of the legal status of the substance involved and shall apply to all conduct on UFS premises or at UFS-sanctioned events.

**Liquor Product**

Means wine; an alcoholic fruit beverage; a spirit; a grape-based liquor; a spirit-based liquor; a specially authorised liquor; any liquor other than a product as stated with section 1 of Act 60 of 1989.

**Manufacturing**

The act of manufacturing substances by means of a chemical synthesis, cultivation, natural extraction, or process of fermentation. The act of manufacturing can also include the packaging or repackaging of substances, and/or labelling and re-labelling of its container. The act of manufacturing often involves more than one individual. Thus, anyone who is involved in the entire chain of manufacturing actions can be charged with the illegal manufacturing of substances.

**Possession**

"Possession of alcohol or intoxicating substance" refers to the act of having physical control or custody of any alcoholic beverage or substance that can induce intoxication, either directly on one's person, within one's immediate reach, or in a place under one's control, such as a vehicle, residence, or other property. The definition extends to any scenario where an individual has the ability and intent to use, distribute, or exercise dominion over such substances. This definition

encompasses both actual possession, where the substance is found on the individual, and constructive possession, where the individual has knowledge of and the ability to exercise control over the substance, even if it is not in their immediate physical possession. This term applies regardless of the legality of the substance and includes situations where possession is temporary or shared with another individual. This means an individual can be in possession even if they do not own it. Furthermore, it is also possible for more than one individual to be in possession of alcohol or substances.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, for the purposes of determining a breach of this Policy concerning prohibited possession at UFS events or on UFS property, 'possession' shall not be deemed to include:

(i) The transit of an alcoholic beverage in a sealed, unopened container, or a quantity of cannabis consistent with lawful personal use off UFS property (as defined by applicable national legislation) which is carried in a sealed and entirely concealed manner, directly and without undue delay across UFS property from a point of origin outside UFS property to a destination outside UFS property; or the temporary and secure storage of such aforementioned substances within a locked private vehicle parked on UFS property; provided always that such substances are *bona fide* intended solely for consumption or use off UFS property and remain sealed, unopened (in the case of alcohol), and entirely sealed and concealed (in the case of cannabis) at all times whilst on UFS property. This exception does not extend to the storage of such substances within UFS student residences.

(ii) The possession of alcohol or an intoxicating substance by an individual where such possession is explicitly authorised in writing by the Executive Director: Student Affairs for a recognised UFS event, academic purpose, or other formally approved activity, strictly in accordance with the terms and limitations of such authorisation.

The act of using, publicly displaying, distributing, or selling any alcohol, cannabis, or intoxicating substance on UFS property remains strictly prohibited under the terms of this Policy, unless explicitly authorised as per sub-paragraph (ii) above. The exceptions outlined herein pertain exclusively to the definition of 'possession' for the purpose of an alleged policy breach related to the presence of such substances on UFS property under the specific, limited circumstances described, and do not confer any right to use, distribute, sell, or display such substances on UFS property, nor do they permit possession in contravention of any other applicable UFS regulation or national law.

**Sale**

The direct or indirect sale of any alcohol, cannabis, or substances on UFS-owned property and at UFS-sponsored or supervised events or activities for the purpose of consumption. To 'sell' includes exchange, offer, display, deliver, supply or dispose of, for sale, or authorise, direct or allow a sale.

**Substance**

For the purposes of this Policy, "substance" shall mean any chemical, agent, compound, preparation, or material – whether of natural or synthetic origin – capable of producing a psychoactive, intoxicating, or behaviour-altering effect upon consumption, inhalation, injection, or

other method of administration. This definition includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) all substances designated as “dependence-producing substances” or “dangerous dependence-producing substances” in terms of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act 140 of 1992;
- (b) any scheduled medicine or substance as contemplated in the Medicines and Related Substances Act 101 of 1965, when used outside the scope of lawful medical or therapeutic use;
- (c) any intoxicating liquor as defined in the Liquor Act 59 of 2003; and
- (d) cannabis or any derivative or preparation thereof, regardless of its legal status under the Cannabis for Private Purposes Act 7 of 2024, which shall for the purposes of this Policy be deemed prohibited on all UFS premises and at all UFS-related events.

### **Substance Abuse**

“Substance abuse” shall mean the deliberate, negligent, unlawful, or otherwise inappropriate use, consumption, ingestion, inhalation, injection, or application of any substance, as defined herein, in a manner that:

- (a) is not authorised by applicable legislation, regulation, or medical prescription;
- (b) exceeds accepted or therapeutically indicated dosage, frequency, or method of administration;
- (c) causes, contributes to, or is reasonably likely to result in physical, psychological, academic, social, behavioural, disciplinary, or legal harm;
- (d) undermines the health, safety, or academic functioning of the individual or others; or
- (e) is in contravention of any applicable UFS rule, policy, or directive, including this Policy.

For the purposes of this Policy, “substance abuse” encompasses both “controlled substance abuse” and “illicit substance abuse”:

- (i) “*Controlled substance abuse*” refers to the improper or excessive consumption, possession, or distribution of substances that are regulated under South African law, including but not limited to alcohol, prescription medications, and cannabis used within the bounds of legal authorisation. Such abuse occurs when a controlled substance is utilised outside the scope of its lawful use, medical necessity, or prescribed dosage, or when it is employed for purposes not sanctioned by applicable legislation or professional guidelines. For the avoidance of doubt, any use of a controlled substance in contravention of its intended legal or medical purpose – whether by excess, non-medical motive, or unauthorised transaction – shall constitute controlled substance abuse.
- (ii) “*Illicit substance abuse*” denotes the use, possession, distribution, cultivation, manufacture or administration of any substance that is
  - (a) prohibited by national legislation, including but not limited to the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act 140 of 1992, or
  - (b) in contravention of institutional rules and codes of conduct, irrespective of the substance’s general legal status.

This includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorised possession or use of narcotic or psychotropic substances listed in Schedules I and II of the aforementioned Act. Furthermore, in accordance with the Cannabis for Private Purposes Act 7 of 2024, while adult persons may, under limited circumstances, possess and use cannabis within

private dwellings for strictly personal purposes, such provision does not extend to property owned, controlled or regulated by the UFS or UFS events. For the avoidance of doubt, the possession, use, cultivation, or distribution of cannabis in any form on UFS premises or at any UFS event is strictly prohibited and shall be deemed illicit substance abuse under this policy. Illicit substance abuse further encompasses the misuse of otherwise lawful substances when such use is undertaken unlawfully (e.g., dispensing prescription medication absent lawful authority).

The term “substance abuse” as used herein is aligned with the definition of “abuse” in the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008, and is further informed by the World Health Organization’s guidance on the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, inclusive of both legal and illegal substances. Conduct falling within this definition is incompatible with the objectives and obligations of the UFS and may attract disciplinary and/or legal consequences. Substance abuse may be episodic, recurrent, or chronic, and need not meet the threshold of dependence or addiction to fall within the ambit of this Policy.

### **Supply**

For the purposes of this policy, “supply” shall mean the manufacture, production, cultivation, procurement, sale, administration, transmission, distribution, delivery, or any act of making available or placing another person in possession or control of any illicit substance or controlled substance in a manner that contravenes applicable legislation, medical authorisation, or UFS policy. This includes both

- (a) the provision of illicit substances as defined under national legislation such as the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act 140 of 1992, and
- (b) the unauthorised distribution or facilitation of access to controlled substances, including but not limited to prescription medication or cannabis, where such acts amount to controlled substance abuse as defined in this policy. Any act of supply, whether gratuitous or for compensation, shall constitute a contravention of this policy when it involves substances used or distributed unlawfully or in a manner inconsistent with the health, safety, or disciplinary standards of the UFS.

### **Tetrahydrocannabinol**

The term 'tetrahydrocannabinol' or 'THC' as used in this policy refers to delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the primary psychoactive compound in cannabis. THC is regulated under South African law, specifically the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act 101 of 1965 and the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act 140 of 1992. This definition includes all derivatives, isomers, and analogs of THC, as well as any preparations or products containing THC, in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

### **University of the Free State**

“The UFS” means the University of the Free State, a public higher education institution duly established under the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997.

	<p><b>Vice-Chancellor and Principal</b>  “Vice-Chancellor and Principal” means the person who is appointed by the Council and who is the Principal of the UFS as contemplated in section 26(2)(c) of the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997.</p>
<p><b>5. Guiding Principles</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to support and promote the UFS values of care and social justice, specifically in terms of the student community.</p> <p>The policy is therefore guided by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Creating an environment that is conducive to student learning, development and success.</li> <li>5.2 Fostering student wellbeing.</li> <li>5.3 Collaboration within the UFS community.</li> <li>5.4 To protect and promote human dignity.</li> <li>5.5 To advance restorative justice.</li> <li>5.6 Commitment to proactive education, awareness, and harm reduction approaches.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Policy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1 The UFS prohibits the unauthorised manufacture, use, distribution, possession, and sale of alcohol and controlled and/or illicit substances – which includes cannabis and cannabis products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) – by registered UFS students and visitors, regardless of age, on university-owned property and at university-sponsored or supervised events or activities.</li> <li>6.2 Public intoxication on campus property (which includes but is not limited to UFS premises, sports fields, residences and buildings) is explicitly prohibited. Those conditions considered to indicate intoxication include, but are not limited to, affected manner of disposition, speech, muscular movements, general appearance or behaviour as apparent to an observer.</li> <li>6.3 The possession, use, or distribution of any container (whether sealed, unsealed, opened, full, partially full, or empty) that contains, or previously contained, alcohol, cannabis, or any other intoxicating substance is strictly prohibited at UFS events, on all UFS-owned property, and within UFS student residences. This includes, but is not limited to, branded or unbranded containers and paraphernalia associated with intoxicating substances.  Notwithstanding the above, possession of alcohol or cannabis in sealed, unopened containers (or, in the case of cannabis, in quantities consistent with lawful personal use that are entirely concealed) shall not constitute a violation of this provision only if such possession falls strictly within the exceptions set out in the definition of "Possession" in this policy, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) where such substances are in transit across UFS property without undue delay between points outside of UFS property, or securely stored in a privately owned, locked motor vehicle parked on UFS property, provided always that such</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>substances are <i>bona fide</i> intended solely for off-campus use and remain sealed, unopened (in the case of alcohol), and entirely sealed and concealed (in the case of cannabis) at all times while on UFS property. This exception explicitly does not extend to the storage of such substances within UFS student residences under any circumstances; and</p> <p>(ii) where possession is expressly authorised in writing by the Executive Director: Student Affairs for a recognised university event, academic purpose, or other formally approved activity, in accordance with the terms of such authorisation.</p> <p>Any use, public display, consumption, or unauthorised storage of such substances on UFS property remains a violation of this policy.</p> <p>6.4 Unwelcome and unwanted behaviour, resulting from intoxication or the illegal use of controlled or illicit substances, will result in disciplinary action, in accordance with the UFS Rules on Student Discipline. Unwelcome and unwanted behaviour refer to any conduct that is not solicited or desired by the recipient and is deemed inappropriate or unacceptable, particularly in a university setting. In the context of this policy, "unwelcome and unwanted behavior" includes, but is not limited to, actions that are aggressive, disruptive, threatening, or inappropriate and that interfere with the safety, well-being, or rights of others. Such behavior may be verbal, physical, or psychological and is considered more severe when resulting from intoxication or the illegal use of controlled or illicit substances. Furthermore, no illegal substances are allowed on the university-owned property and at university-sponsored or supervised events or activities.</p> <p>6.5 The misuse of prescription and over-the-counter medication will be considered as a violation of this policy.</p> <p>6.6 Alcohol and other controlled and/or illicit substances possessed or consumed in violation of this policy are subject to confiscation by members of Protection Services after a written complaint under oath was received as per Section 24 of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 and will be reported to the relevant authorities in terms of Section 10 of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act 140 of 1992 which may result in criminal prosecution of the parties involved. Confiscated alcohol and other controlled and/or illicit substances will be disposed of by the Site Manager: Protection Services Division (or delegated office within the UFS Protection Services).</p> <p>6.7 The Executive Director: Student Affairs has the authority to approve exceptions to this policy by granting special permission for the use of alcohol by students on the UFS-owned property and at UFS-sponsored or supervised events or activities. The approval of exceptions may happen in two ways, namely:</p> <p>6.7.1 Requests for the approval of the use of alcohol by students must be submitted via the Events Approval Application</p>
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	<p>Process, as defined by the UFS Events Management Committee.</p> <p>6.7.2 Requests for the selling of alcohol for external events must be submitted in writing to the Occupational Health and Safety Office (under the jurisdiction of University Estates) of the UFS, after which written feedback must be given to the applicant. The selling of alcohol on UFS-owned property and at UFS-sponsored or supervised events or activities is subject to the Liquor Act, 59 of 2003 and the Liquor Amendment Act of 2016. The selling of alcohol on UFS-owned property and at UFS-sponsored or supervised events or activities is subject to the possession of a valid liquor license. A final approval for the selling of alcohol for external events shall then be sought from the UFS Events Management Committee.</p> <p>6.8 Violations of this policy will lead to corrective and disciplinary actions against offenders, in accordance with the UFS Student Disciplinary Code. In certain situations, these violations may also be reported to external authorities as mandated by specific legislation.</p> <p>6.9 The UFS is dedicated to ensuring the well-being and safety of all its community members. This policy aims to encourage individuals to seek help, assist others, and intervene when necessary, particularly in cases where a student's health or safety is at risk due to substance abuse. To promote this, the policy alleviates the fear of disciplinary action for those who take responsible action, in line with the Good Samaritan principle. In such situations, individuals are urged to contact the Protection Services duty room at:</p> <p>6.9.1 Bloemfontein Campus: +27(0)51 401 2911   +27 (0)51 401 2634</p> <p>6.9.2 Qwaqwa Campus: +27(0)58 718 5460   +27 (0)58 718 5175</p> <p>6.9.3 South Campus: +27(0)51 505 1217</p> <p>6.10 In accordance with the Cannabis for Private Purposes Act 7 of 2024, the UFS emphasises that no cannabis or cannabis-containing products may be used, possessed, grown, cultivated, or stored on any UFS-owned property or at UFS-affiliated events. This applies regardless of whether such use is permitted in private settings under national legislation. All UFS campuses and facilities are designated cannabis-free zones.</p> <p>6.11 The UFS will design, implement, and review structured annual prevention and education programmes aimed at reducing substance abuse among students, for example: information campaigns, peer education, training for staff and residence leaders, and collaboration with student organisations.</p>
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	<p>6.12 Students who are experiencing substance-related challenges are strongly encouraged to seek support. The UFS offers access to confidential counselling services, and where appropriate, referrals to internal or external treatment and rehabilitation providers. Seeking help proactively will not result in disciplinary action under the Good Samaritan principle.</p> <p>6.13 The UFS is committed to applying a rehabilitative and restorative approach in responding to substance abuse-related infractions. Where appropriate, disciplinary outcomes will include corrective measures such as mandatory counselling, participation in educational programmes, or community service, particularly for first-time or minor offences.</p>
<b>7. Responsibility</b>	<p>7.1 Executive Director: Division of Student Affairs</p> <p>7.2 Senior Director: University Estates</p> <p>7.3 Senior Director: Protection Services</p> <p>7.4 Head: Legal Services, Student Discipline and Mediation Unit</p>
<b>8. Accountability and Authority:</b>	
<b>8.1 Implementation:</b>	<p>The effective implementation of this policy depends on the following resources:</p> <p>8.1.1 Human Resources in the Division of Student Affairs</p> <p>8.1.2 Human Resources in the Protection Services</p> <p>8.1.3 Human Resources in the Directorate for Student Discipline and Mediation</p> <p>8.1.4 Human Resources in the Office of the Registrar</p> <p>8.1.5 Human Resources in the Occupational Health and Safety Office</p> <p>8.1.6 Active assistance from the South African Police Service</p> <p>8.1.7 Active assistance from the Free State Liquor Board</p>
<b>8.2 Compliance:</b>	<p>8.2.1 Students registered at the UFS</p> <p>8.2.2 Student leaders</p> <p>8.2.3 UFS staff</p> <p>8.2.4 External stakeholders and service providers</p>
<b>8.3 Monitoring and Evaluation:</b>	<p>8.3.1 Protection Services</p> <p>8.3.2 Division of Student Affairs</p> <p>8.3.3 University Estates</p> <p>8.3.4 Office of the Registrar</p>
<b>8.4 Development/Review:</b>	<p>8.4.1 The Division of Student Affairs is responsible for reviewing this policy every three years and submit it to the necessary statutory bodies for approval. However, this policy may be reviewed as and when deemed necessary.</p>
<b>8.5 Approval Authority:</b>	<p>8.5.1 Council</p>
<b>8.6 Interpretation and Advice:</b>	<p>8.6.1 Deputy Registrar: Legal Services and Compliance</p>
<b>9. Who should know this policy?</b>	
<p>9.1 Students</p> <p>9.2 Institutional Student Representative Council (ISRC) and the Campus Student Representative Council (CSRC) per UFS campus.</p> <p>9.3 Residence Committees</p> <p>9.4 Student Association Leaders</p>	

- 9.5 Faculty Council Leaders
- 9.6 Staff, especially within:
- a) Division of Student Affairs
  - b) Protection Services
  - c) University Estates
  - d) Office of the Registrar
  - e) Student Discipline and Mediation Unit
  - f) External Service Providers involved in relevant functions and events

<p><b>10. Policy/procedure implementation plan</b></p>	<p>10.1 The policy is distributed on an annual basis to all newly-elected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ISRC and CSRC members</li> <li>b) Residence Committee Members</li> <li>c) Student Association Leaders</li> </ul> <p>10.2 The policy is workshopped annually with relevant staff members in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Division of Student Affairs</li> <li>b) Protection Service</li> <li>c) University Estates</li> <li>d) Directorate for Student Discipline and Mediation</li> </ul> <p>10.3. An annual Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign will be implemented to support education and prevention efforts. The campaign will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Student-focused information sessions and outreach events</li> <li>b) Relevant Training</li> <li>c) Communication drives in collaboration with student governance structures and the UFS Health and Wellness Centre</li> <li>d) Distribution of materials across all campuses to raise awareness of policy provisions and available support services</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Resources required</b></p>	<p>11 Human resources in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Division of Student Affairs</li> <li>b) Protection Services</li> <li>c) Directorate for Student Discipline and Mediation</li> <li>d) Office of the Registrar</li> <li>e) Occupational Health and Safety Office</li> <li>f) South African Police Service</li> <li>g) Free State Liquor Board</li> </ul>

<p><b>12. Answers to FAQ</b></p>	<p><b>1. What is meant by a substance?</b>          In terms of this policy, a substance refers to chemical, psychoactive substances that are prone to be abused, including alcohol, over-the-counter drugs, prescription medication, cannabis (containing THC), and substances defined in the <i>Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act of 1992</i>.</p> <p><b>2. What does intoxication mean?</b>          Intoxication refers to a voluntary or involuntary state of impairment or the experience of a narcotic effect caused by alcohol, cannabis, or other substances, where a person's physical and mental state is significantly diminished.</p>
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	<p><b>3. Will a container of alcohol be confiscated if still sealed?</b></p> <p>a) No. If a student is in possession of a sealed alcohol container (e.g. for the purpose of using off-campus), the container will not be confiscated.</p> <p>b) If, however, the seal is broken or the container has been opened, it is in contravention of this policy and the alcohol may be confiscated. Corrective action will also be taken against transgressors in accordance with the UFS Student Disciplinary Code. Under some circumstances, the transgressions may be reported to the external authorities as required by certain legislation.</p> <p><b>4. May I consume alcohol at a UFS function/event hosted on campus?</b></p> <p>You may consume alcohol at a UFS function/event on campus if the following requirements have been met:</p> <p>a) The event organisers have received official approval from the Executive Director: Student Affairs (or a delegated office), and</p> <p>b) The event host is in possession of a valid liquor licence when alcohol is sold at the event.</p> <p><b>5. May I smoke cannabis on campus?</b></p> <p>No. Even though the Cannabis for Private Purposes Act 7 of 2024 allows for private adult use at home, cannabis may not be used, possessed, supplied, or cultivated on UFS premises or at any UFS event. All campuses are cannabis-free zones.</p> <p><b>6. Am I allowed to bake or eat baked goods containing cannabis(i.e. 'space cakes') on campus?</b></p> <p>No. The use, supply, or possession of any cannabis-containing product, regardless of form, is prohibited on UFS property and at UFS- affiliated events.</p> <p><b>7. What if I need help with substance use?</b></p> <p>Students who are experiencing substance-related challenges are encouraged to seek help. The UFS offers confidential counselling services through the UFS Health and Wellness Centre and, if needed, can refer students to treatment or support programmes. Seeking help proactively will not result in disciplinary action for minor violations, in accordance with the Good Samaritan principle.</p>
<b>EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POLICY</b>	
<b>Performance Indicator(s):</b>	To be completed on review by the person responsible for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.