UNC Charlotte Help Seeking Protocol

A priority of UNC Charlotte is students’ health, safety, and welfare. As Students are expected to demonstrate compassion by seeking help in potentially dangerous or life-threatening situations. The University does not want the fear of student conduct repercussions to be a barrier for seeking help. In lieu of Conduct Procedures through the University student conduct process, the Help Seeking Protocol provides students an opportunity to seek help for themselves or others while being connected to campus and community resources.

The Help Seeking Protocol applies to the following circumstances regarding the possession, consumption, or use of alcohol and/or drugs:

- students who seek assistance from emergency personnel or University officials on their own behalf;
- students who seek assistance from emergency personnel or University officials on behalf of another person(s) and who remain present until emergency personnel or University officials arrive;
- students who had assistance from emergency personnel or University officials sought on their behalf;
- organizations in which a representative(s) seeks assistance from emergency personnel or University officials on behalf of another person(s) and who remains present until emergency personnel or University officials arrive; or
- students who are alleged victims of a crime (including, but not limited to, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking, assault, theft, or vandalism) and may have simultaneously violated University policy regarding the possession, consumption, or use of alcohol and/or drugs.

The Help Seeking Protocol does not apply to the following circumstances:

- students who are confronted by emergency personnel or University officials (may be referred to the student conduct process);
- law enforcement agencies within their jurisdictions enforcing federal, state, or local laws (however, state laws related to medical amnesty may apply); or
- students who are engaging in behaviors other than possession, consumption, or use of alcohol and/or drugs (including, but not limited to, driving under the influence, manufacturing/distribution/delivery of drugs, possessing with intent to manufacture/distribute/deliver drugs, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or stalking).

Initiation of the Help Seeking Protocol is at the sole discretion of the Director of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity. While applicable to all students and organizations, decisions to initiate the Protocol will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Director, who will consider all relevant facts in making the decision. If students or organizational representatives believe the Protocol applies, they are encouraged to contact the Director. Decisions on initiation of the Protocol are final and not appealable.

When the Help Seeking Protocol is initiated, the student or an organizational representative will be required to meet with the Director or designee to discuss the incident and available campus and community resources. In order to receive relief under the Protocol, the student or organization must agree to a recommended action plan. This may include a referral to the University’s Center for Wellness Promotion, referrals to other campus or community resources, educational programming, and/or parental notification. A student or organization who fails to meet with the Director or designee or fails to complete any accepted action plan will no longer be eligible for relief under the Protocol and will be referred to the student conduct process as outlined in University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility.

Student Conduct & Academic Integrity will maintain a record of the accepted action plan for eight (8) years in accordance with the University record retention policy. The record, however, is considered internal to the University and will not be disclosed as part of any prior conduct records.

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