



Policy No. 6.026

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

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Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTC) is committed to maintaining a drug free workplace. The illegal use of drugs or alcohol for consumption within the NLTC interferes with the accomplishment of this mission. It is understood that alcohol may be used in laboratory situations and should not be misused for other purposes. Various federal and state laws and regulations apply to employees of the NLTC including Federal Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988, the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Acts Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226), and Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana.

Definitions:

Appointing Authority- The NLTC Chancellor or their designee.

Controlled substance – a controlled substance in schedules I through V of Louisiana R.S. 40:964 or Section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 812.

Conviction – finding of guilt (including a “no contest” plea) or the imposition of sentences, or both, by any judicial body having the responsibility to determine violations of the federal or state criminal drug statutes.

Medical Review Officer (MRO) – a licensed physician knowledgeable of substance abuse who has received specialized training in interpreting and evaluating test results in conjunction with an individual’s medical history and other relevant biomedical information.

NLTC- Any property, college, campus or leased site.

Safety-sensitive or Security-sensitive positions: Positions with duties that may: 1) require or authorize safety inspection of structure; 2) require or authorize access to a prison or an incarcerated individual; 3) require or authorize carrying a firearm; 4) allow access to controlled substances (drugs); 5) require or authorize inspecting, handling, or transporting hazardous waste as

defined in R.S. 30:2173(2) or hazardous materials as defined in R.S. 32:1502(5); 6) require or authorize any responsibility over power plant equipment; 7) require instructing or supervising any person to operate or maintain, or that may require or authorize operating or maintaining, any heavy equipment or machinery; and 8) require or authorize the operation or maintenance of a public vehicle, or the supervision of such an employee.

Sample – urine, blood, saliva, or hair

Workplace- Shall include any location on NLTC property in addition to any location from which an individual conducts NLTC business while such business is being conducted.

Policy

All NLTC employees are required to report for duty in a condition that maximizes his ability to perform assigned tasks in a competent and safe manner. Reporting to work impaired from the use of alcohol or drugs is prohibited.

The unlawful use, abuse, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or being under the influence of a controlled or illegal substance or undisclosed controlled prescription medication while at work, on call, on duty, or engaged in NLTC business is prohibited as is the possession and/or consumption of alcohol in the workplace.

Without reference to any sanctions which may be assessed through criminal justice processes, violators of this policy, including refusal to submit to drug testing when properly ordered to do so, will be subject to NLTC disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

Alcohol misuse is prohibited extending to 1) use of alcohol on the job; 2) use of alcohol during the four hours before performance of safety-sensitive and security-sensitive functions; and 3) having a prohibited alcohol concentration level in the individual's blood system while on the job.

The use of drugs/medications prescribed by a licensed physician is permitted provided that it will not affect the employee's work performance. NLTC reserves the right to have a licensed physician of its own choice determine if the use of a prescription drug/medication produces effects which may impair the employee's performance or increase the risk of injury to the employee or others. If such is the case, NLTC reserves the right to suspend the work activity of the employee during the period in which the employee's ability to safely perform his/her job may be adversely affected by the consumption of such medication.

Drug and Alcohol Screens and Disclosure

NLTC reserves the right to require drug and alcohol screening for pre-employment, re-employment, continued employment or reinstatement, as well as disclosure of the medically required need to take certain prescribed medications or over-the-counter medications.

All employees are subject to being tested for drugs under the following circumstances:

1. Reasonable Suspicion: A belief based on reliable, objective and articulable facts such that a prudent person would suspect that an employee is in violation of this policy.

2. Commercial Driver's License Requirement: Each employee who is required to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) must be tested for drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances in accordance with the provisions of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991.

3. On Prescribed Medication that Could Impair: An employee must notify a supervisor or other individual designated by the appointing authority, prior to or immediately upon reporting to duty, or beginning a prescribed medication or over-the counter medication, that may impair his ability to perform customary job duties or otherwise create a safety hazard. While the duration that the medication will be taken should be disclosed, employees should know that it is not necessary to disclose to a supervisor the medication being taken nor the condition for which it was prescribed. Such information may, however, be required to be disclosed to the Medical Review Officer should circumstances or the nature of the employee's job duties warrant, as determined by the Appointing Authority.

4. Post-Accident/Incident: Any employee directly involved in an on-duty accident or incident, and whose action or inaction may have been a causative factor of same, shall be required to immediately submit to drug and alcohol testing if:

- a. Reasonable Suspicion: Circumstances give rise to a reasonable suspicion of the employee's drug or alcohol use or impairment; or
- b. Fatality: The accident or incident resulted in a fatality; or
- c. Hazardous Materials Release: The accident or incident resulted in or caused the release of hazardous waste as defined in R.S. 30:2173(2) or hazardous materials as defined in R.S. 32:1502(5).

Employees should be aware of the legal presumption of impairment under R.S. 23:1081 if an employee refuses, after being so directed, to submit to drug or alcohol testing as a result of an on-duty accident or incident. As a consequence of, such refusal, benefits under the worker's compensation laws of the State of Louisiana may be denied.

5. Return-to-Duty/Rehabilitation Monitoring: Required as a part of a monitoring program established by the employer to assure compliance with terms of a rehabilitation agreement. Note: Rehabilitation is not required to be offered. Any employee who retains his job following a violation of this policy shall be required, at his own expense, to undergo and complete any and all treatment recommended by a certified substance abuse professional as part of such an agreement. The NLCC reserves the right to ensure that any substance abuse treatment program or facility chosen by an employee to seek rehabilitation meets accreditation or certification to conduct such rehabilitation.

6. Safety-Sensitive or Security-Sensitive Position:

- a. Promotion: Prior to promoting an employee to a safety-sensitive or security-sensitive position or to a higher level safety-sensitive or security-sensitive position

b. Random Drug Testing: NLTCC reserves the right to use random drug testing for those employees in safety-sensitive and security-sensitive positions where any form of substance abuse may affect the operation of the department through unsafe work behavior/performance or error in judgment, or where substance abuse could jeopardize the safety and well-being of employees, other personnel, or the general public.

c. Non-exclusive List of Safety-sensitive or Security-sensitive Positions:

- Positions with duties that may require or authorize the safety inspection of a structure;
- Positions that require or authorize access to a prison or an incarcerated individual;
- Positions with duties that may require or authorize carrying a firearm;
- Positions with duties that may allow access to controlled substances (drugs);
- Positions with duties that may require or authorize inspecting, handling, or transporting hazardous waste as defined in R.S. 30:2173(2) or hazardous materials as defined in R.S. 32:1502(5);
- Positions with duties that may require or authorize any responsibility over power plant equipment;
- Positions with duties that may require instructing or supervising any person to operate or maintain, or that may require or authorize operating or maintaining, any heavy equipment or machinery; and
- Positions with duties that may require or authorize the operation or maintenance of a public vehicle, or the supervision of such an employee;

Rights of the Employee and Employer

Any employee, confirmed positive, upon his written request, shall have the right of access within seven working days to records relating to his drug tests and any records relating to the results of any relevant certification, review, or suspension/revocation-of-certification proceedings.

NLTCC may allow an employee to undergo rehabilitation without termination of employment for any drug test certified positive by a Medical Review Officer.

Drug Testing Services

NLTCC will obtain employee drug testing services from a provider of its choice.

Expectation of Privacy

Employees are hereby notified that NLTCC offices and work sites are the property of the NLTCC and there is no expectation of privacy with regard to NLTCC offices and work sites. Under appropriate circumstances and in accordance with the law, the NLTCC, in conjunction with law enforcement authorities, reserves the right to conduct unannounced searches and inspection of NLTCC facilities and properties, including state-owned vehicles.

Confidentiality

All tests and screening under this policy shall be done in strict confidence. Information obtained from tests and screening will be provided only on a need-to-know basis. Medical information obtained will be protected as confidential unless otherwise required by law or overriding public health concerns.

Employer Notification Requirements

The Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 requires that each employee notify his/her **supervisor** within five (5) days of conviction of any criminal drug statutes when such offense occurred in the workplace, while on official business, during work hours, or when in on-call duty status. Federal law requires that NLTC report within ten (10) days any such criminal drug statute conviction to each Federal Agency from which grants or contracts are received.

Employees whose jobs require driving are required to notify their immediate supervisor if their driving privileges are suspended or revoked. If reasonable accommodation cannot be made, employees who operate NLTC vehicles on a regular and recurring basis may be forced to utilize accrued leave or be placed in leave without pay status during the period of suspension of driving privileges. Employees returning to work after such suspension shall be required to provide proof of restoration of driving privileges.

Employee Notification

The NLTC will notify all employees at least once each year of its policies and procedures governing the illegal use of alcoholic beverages and drugs and through appropriate media, make employees aware of the dangers of abusive or illegal use of alcohol or drugs.

All new employees will receive a copy of this policy and will be required to acknowledge that they have read and understand the policy. As a condition of employment, all NLTC employees must comply with this policy.

Posting Requirement

In accordance with provisions of Act 1027 (1990 Regular Session), drug free zone posters will be posted on a bulletin board and/or other prominent location(s) in each campus of each of the NLTC.

Approved:

Jayda Spillers

Jayda Spillers, Ed.D.
Chancellor