



Medical Amnesty

Responsible Official:	Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Engagement
Responsible Office:	Health and Well-Being
Issuance Date:	8/10/2026
Effective Date:	8/10/2026
Summary:	This Procedure implements the UC Medical Amnesty Policy described in PACAOS 100.00 Section 104.100. Students who seek Medical Treatment for an alcohol- or drug-related Medical Emergency, either for themselves or another student, will not face disciplinary action for certain related policy violations as long as certain conditions are met.
Scope:	UC Merced undergraduate and graduate students.

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I. SUMMARY

Consistent with the University's commitment to student health and safety, students are encouraged to seek Emergency Medical Services for themselves or others experiencing an Alcohol- or Drug-Related Medical Emergency without fear of disciplinary action for certain related policy violations. A student who receives emergency medical assistance due to the consumption or use of alcohol or drugs shall not be subject to disciplinary action under these Policies or campus regulations for personal use violations of Section 102.17 or 102.18, or related campus alcohol or drug policies, as long as certain conditions – outlined in Section III of this Procedure – are met.

Additionally, [California Assembly Bill 602 \(AB 602\)](#) requires the University of California to establish a Medical Amnesty policy that provides immunity from disciplinary sanctions when a

student seeks medical assistance for alcohol- or drug-related overdose either for themselves or for another student.

Furthermore, under the [University of California Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy](#), the university will not discipline complainants or witnesses for alcohol- and drug-related violations discovered in the course of reporting, unless the violation is determined to be egregious (Section III, E.).

Lastly, in 2021, UC Merced became a [JED Campus](#). As part of its five-year strategic plan, Action item 12.2 calls for the development and refinement of a medical Amnesty policy consistent with JED Campus recommendations. This Procedure reflects that commitment.

II. DEFINITIONS

Amnesty: Protection from formal disciplinary sanctions for specific alcohol- or drug-related personal use or possession violations when the requirements of this Procedure are met.

Alcohol- or Drug-Related Medical Emergency: A situation in which an individual's consumption of alcohol or other drugs results in a condition that requires immediate medical attention, including but not limited to overdose, loss of consciousness, difficulty breathing, persistent vomiting, seizures, or other life-threatening symptoms.

Conduct Administrator: A university official designated by Residence Education or the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) responsible for investigating, managing, and resolving alleged violations of the student code of conduct.

Emergency Medical Services: Refers to the delivery of immediate care by trained first responders (police officers, fire personnel, emergency medical technicians or paramedics) at the scene and/or enroute to definitive hospital care.

Good Faith: A genuine effort to seek medical assistance due to concern for the health and safety of oneself or another person, rather than to avoid disciplinary action. The Conduct Administrator will determine Good Faith based on available evidence.

JED Campus: A signature program of The Jed Foundation (JED) that helps colleges and universities strengthen their mental health, substance misuse, and suicide prevention efforts.

Medical Treatment: For the purpose of Medical Amnesty, Medical Treatment refers to emergency medical care or assessment provided in response to a student's alcohol or other drug use, including care related to intoxication, overdose, or other substance-related health and safety concerns.

Medical Emergency: Any situation where a person has consumed a toxic amount of a substance – or a combination of substances – that overwhelms the body’s ability to function safely, therefore requiring immediate Emergency Medical Services.

Rehabilitation or Intervention Program: An educational, counseling, assessment, or other supportive program designed to reduce harm and prevent future alcohol- or drug-related incidents, as determined by the University.

III. POLICY TEXT

1. A student who seeks Medical Treatment for themselves or another person due to the consumption or use of alcohol or drugs, as well as the individual receiving medical assistance (if different from the reporting student) shall not be subject to disciplinary action under [PACAOS 100](#) or campus regulations for personal use, violations of PACAOS Section 102.17 or 102.18, or related campus alcohol or drug policies.
2. Amnesty applies to:
 - a. The student experiencing a Medical Emergency; and
 - b. The student(s) who initiated the request for Emergency Medical Services.
3. As a condition of receiving Amnesty, the student shall be required to participate in and complete an appropriate Rehabilitation or Intervention Program, as determined by the campus and within a reasonable timeframe established by the university.
4. Amnesty shall apply no more than once per academic semester per student.
5. If a student fails to complete the required Rehabilitation or Intervention Program, the student may be subject to disciplinary action for the underlying alcohol- or drug-related policy violation in accordance with PACAOS 100 and applicable campus regulations.
6. This Amnesty applies only to disciplinary action for personal use violations of alcohol- or other drug-related policies and does not preclude the university from addressing other alleged misconduct. Such misconduct may include, but is not limited to, manufacturing, distribution, dispensing, or sale of alcohol or controlled substances; physical violence; sexual violence; hazing; disruptive behavior; or violations of other University policies. Nothing in this Procedure limits the university’s authority to take immediate interim measures necessary to protect the health and safety of the campus community.

IV. PROCEDURES

The following steps outline how this Procedure is implemented:

1. **Emergency Response:** A student calls for help – either a campus resource (Residence Assistant, Residence Education Coordinator, Student Health Services, etc.) or appropriate Emergency Medical Services when an Alcohol- or Drug-Related Medical Emergency is suspected.
2. **Incident Review:** After an incident report is submitted, a Conduct Administrator assigned to the case will review the report and determine whether the incident meets the criteria for Medical Amnesty under this Procedure.
3. **Notification and Follow-Up:**
 - a. If the incident qualifies for Medical Amnesty, the eligible student(s) is/are notified that the matter will be addressed under the Medical Amnesty Policy.
 - b. The student(s) will be required to complete a follow-up consultation and/or a Rehabilitation or Intervention Program.
4. **Completion of Requirements:** Upon successful completion of the assigned Rehabilitation or Intervention Program requirement, the incident will not result in a formal disciplinary record related to the alcohol- or drug-related policy violation, though the University may retain internal records for administrative purposes.
5. **Failure to Complete Requirements:** If the student does not complete the required Rehabilitation or Intervention Program within the designated timeframe, the Conduct Administrator may proceed with the student conduct process for the underlying violation.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS & ENGAGEMENT AND ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR, HEALTH & WELL-BEING

1. Provides executive oversight of this Procedure and ensures campus-wide compliance with applicable laws and UC policy.

B. CONDUCT ADMINISTRATOR

1. Reviews incidents to determine eligibility for medical Amnesty.
2. Notifies students of eligibility and assigns Rehabilitation or Intervention Program.
3. Monitors completion of required Rehabilitation or Intervention Program.
4. Ensures qualifying incidents do not result in formal disciplinary records for covered violations.
5. Maintains records of Amnesty use for tracking purposes.

C. RESIDENCE EDUCATION

1. Provides prevention education and resources to students living on campus.
2. Documents and refers instances of alcohol- and drug- related medical emergencies to UCMPD and emergency services.
3. Supports follow-up and educational interventions as appropriate.

D. STUDENTS

1. Seek medical assistance in Good Faith during alcohol- and drug-related emergencies.
2. Comply with any required follow-up consultation or intervention program.

E. UC MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT (UCMPD)

1. Responds to reports of alcohol- and-drug related medical emergencies and coordinates with local Emergency Medical Services.
2. Provides on-site safety management as appropriate.
3. Documents and refers alcohol- and drug related medical emergencies to OSRR or Residence Education for follow-up and ongoing support.

VI. REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

State Laws and Regulations

- [California Assembly Bill 602](#)

UC Policies

- [UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy \(Section III, E.\)](#)
- [UC Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students \(PACAOS\)](#)
- [UC Merced Student Handbook \(PACAOS\)](#)
- [UC Merced Housing Handbook](#)

Campus & Local Resources

- [Counseling & Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Health Promotion](#)
- [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities \(OSRR\)](#)
- [Office of the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination](#)
- [Office of the Ombuds](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)
- [UC Merced Police Department \(UCMPD\)](#)
- [Merced County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services \(BHRS\)](#)

VII. REVISION HISTORY

Date	Action/Summary of Changes
8/10/2026	Original Procedure issued