



Fact Sheet

Higher Education and Marijuana

What Michigan legalization of marijuana (medical and recreational) means for Dorsey College students

Fact 1: Dorsey College must comply with federal laws regarding the possession, distribution, and consumption of marijuana.

Even though it has been legalized for recreational and medicinal use in Michigan, marijuana use remains illegal and fully criminalized according to federal law. Marijuana remains a Schedule I drug under the federal Controlled Substance Act of 1970. Dorsey College is subject to the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 and is obligated to prevent the illicit use of drugs and abuse of alcohol by students and employees on Dorsey College property or at college events.

Fact 2: The receipt of federal funds in the form of student loans and grants, among other things, is conditioned on compliance with federal drug law.

As a recipient of federal funding, Dorsey College is required to take measures to prevent the illicit use of drugs and abuse of alcohol on campus by students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Dorsey College policies and federal law prohibit anyone from using, possessing or distributing marijuana on school property or at any school events, including off-campus externship and clinical experiences, graduations, etc.

Fact 3: Federal law prohibiting marijuana preempts state laws attempting to legalize the drug.

The possession, use, and distribution of marijuana is still illegal and subject to prosecution under federal law, regardless of what state laws permit, and regardless of whether the federal government chooses to actively enforce federal law in those states that have legalized recreational marijuana use.

The use of recreational or medicinal marijuana in any form, including edibles and extracts, remains prohibited by federal law and college policy. Dorsey College's ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY prohibits the use, possession, or cultivation of marijuana on its property or premises or in/on Dorsey College controlled environments, even if a student, employee, or visitor has been properly certified as a medical marijuana user.

Those found in violation of Dorsey College policies or federal laws prohibiting the use or possession of illegal drugs on campus are subject to legal and disciplinary action.

Fact 4: Dorsey College can prohibit a student from engaging in conduct that is permissible under state law.

Like alcohol, tobacco and other controlled substances that may be permissible under state law but are restricted by school policies, Dorsey College will not permit the use of marijuana on college property or at any school event. As a higher education institution and the recipient of federal funds, Dorsey College has both the authority, and the legal obligation to prohibit marijuana on campus and at school events. Students, faculty and staff who violate policies are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Fact 5: The Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act, also known as Proposal 1, allows employers to refuse to hire job applicants or fire existing employees if they test positive for marijuana. This allowance extends to students who participate in externship or clinical courses at their facilities.

Additionally, the State of Michigan prohibits a person from undertaking any task under the influence of marijuana, when doing so would constitute negligence or professional malpractice, as in many areas of the medical field. At any time during or upon entry into certain externship courses and courses with clinical rotations, participation is dependent upon the results of drug testing consistent with the requirements of the facility where the externship or clinical participation occurs.

Students may be subject to random drug testing at any time. A positive drug test will render the student ineligible for continued enrollment in certain programs, as completion of these externship and clinical experiences are a requirement for graduation.

In summary, students should refrain from cannabis use while enrolled in higher education programs, considering existing federal regulations, state regulations, and institutional policies.

Additional Resources:

- Dorsey College Catalog <https://www.dorsey.edu/catalog/>
- Dorsey College Policies and Plans <https://www.dorsey.edu/policies-and-plans/>
- Student Consumer Information <https://www.dorsey.edu/disclosures/>