



**Title: #IV-30. Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy**

**Date: December 30, 2025** (Replaces version dated September 24, 2025)

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**Purpose**

In compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, WVU Parkersburg (WVUP) has a longstanding commitment to provide a safe, quality-oriented and productive work environment. Alcohol and drug misuse poses a threat to the health and safety of WVUP employees and to the security of the company's equipment and facilities. For these reasons, WVUP is committed to the elimination of drug and alcohol use and misuse in the workplace.

**Scope**

This policy applies to all employees for employment of WVUP. The human resource (HR) department is responsible for policy administration.

**Employee Assistance**

WVUP will assist and support employees who voluntarily seek help for drug or alcohol addiction before becoming subject to discipline or termination under this or other WVUP policies. Such employees will be allowed to use accrued paid time off, placed on leave of absence, referred to treatment providers and otherwise accommodated as required by law. Employees may be required to document that they are successfully following prescribed treatment and to take and pass follow-up tests if they hold jobs that are safety-sensitive or require driving, or if they have violated this policy previously. Once a drug test has been initiated under this policy, unless otherwise required by the Family and Medical Leave Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act, the employee will have forfeited the opportunity to be granted a leave of absence for treatment, and will face possible discipline, up to and including discharge.

Employees should report to work fit for duty and free of any adverse effects of illegal drugs or alcohol. This policy does not prohibit employees from the lawful use and possession of prescribed medications. Employees must, however, consult with their doctors about the medications' effect on their fitness for duty and ability to work safely, and they must promptly disclose any work restrictions to their supervisor.

**Work Rules**

1. Whenever employees are working, are operating any WVUP vehicle, are present on WVUP premises or are conducting company-related work offsite, they are prohibited from:
  - a. Using, possessing, buying, selling, manufacturing or dispensing an illegal drug (to include possession of drug paraphernalia).

- b. Being under the influence of alcohol or an illegal drug as defined in this policy.
  - c. Possessing or consuming alcohol.
- 2. The presence of any detectable amount of any illegal drug, illegal controlled substance or alcohol in an employee's body system, while performing company business or while in a company facility, is prohibited.
- 3. WVUP will also not allow employees to perform their duties while taking prescribed drugs that are adversely affecting their ability to perform their job duties safely and effectively. Employees taking a prescribed medication must carry it in a container labeled by a licensed pharmacist or be prepared to produce the container if asked.
- 4. Any illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia will be turned over to an appropriate law enforcement agency and may result in criminal prosecution.

## **Required Testing**

### **Pre-Employment Testing**

WVU Parkersburg requires pre-employment drug testing as a condition of employment for all final candidates for staff and faculty positions. The purpose of this testing is to ensure a safe, productive, and drug-free workplace in accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act and WVUP's zero-tolerance drug-free policy.

#### **1. Conditional Offer Requirement**

A final candidate will receive a conditional offer of employment contingent upon successfully passing a drug screening conducted through a WVUP-designated testing facility.

#### **2. Testing Process**

- a. The candidate will be directed to complete a drug screening within two (2) business days of receiving instructions from Human Resources.
- b. Candidates who fail to complete the screening within the required timeframe, without valid reason, will be considered to have withdrawn from the hiring process.
- c. All testing will follow the same chain-of-custody and laboratory standards described in the "Collection and Testing Procedures" section of this policy.

#### **3. Positive Results, Tampering, or Refusal to Test**

- a. A confirmed positive drug test, refusal to test, failure to appear for testing, or any attempt to adulterate, dilute, or substitute a specimen will result in withdrawal of the employment offer.
- b. Candidates who test positive may not reapply for WVUP employment for six (6) months, unless otherwise required by law.

#### **4. Prescription Medication Disclosure**

Candidates must notify the testing lab of any valid prescriptions that may affect test results. All positive results will be reviewed by a Medical Review Officer (MRO) in accordance with this policy.

#### 5. No Employment Until a Negative Result Is Received

Candidates may not begin work, orientation, training, or receive access to WVUP systems or facilities until Human Resources receives a verified negative test result from the MRO.

#### 6. Safety-Sensitive Positions

Candidates selected for safety-sensitive positions may be subject to additional or more frequent testing requirements under state or federal regulations.

### ***Reasonable suspicion***

Employees are subject to testing based on, but not limited to, observations of apparent workplace use, possession or impairment by at least two members of management. HR, the supervisor or dean or vice president should be consulted before sending an employee for testing. Management must use the reasonable suspicion observation checklist to document specific observations and behaviors that create a reasonable suspicion that an employee is under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol. Examples include:

- Odors (smell of alcohol, body odor or urine).
- Movements (unsteady, fidgety, dizzy).
- Eyes (dilated, constricted or watery eyes, or involuntary eye movements).
- Face (flushed, sweating, confused or blank look).
- Speech (slurred, slow, distracted mid-thought, inability to verbalize thoughts).
- Emotions (argumentative, agitated, irritable, drowsy).
- Actions
- Inactions (sleeping, unconscious, no reaction to questions).
- Finding suspected drug paraphernalia or debris.

When reasonable suspicion testing is warranted, both management and HR will meet with the employee to explain the observations and the requirement to undergo a drug and/or alcohol test within two hours. Refusal by an employee will be treated as a positive drug test result and will result in immediate termination of employment.

*Under no circumstances will the employee be allowed to drive himself or herself to the testing facility. A member of management must transport the employee or arrange for a cab and arrange for the employee to be transported home.*

### ***Post-accident***

Employees are subject to testing when they cause or contribute to accidents that seriously damage a WVUP vehicle, machinery, equipment or property or that result in an injury to themselves or another employee requiring offsite medical attention. A circumstance that constitutes probable belief will be presumed to arise in any instance involving a work-related accident or injury in which an employee who was operating a motorized vehicle (including a WVUP forklift, pickup truck, overhead crane or aerial/man-lift) is found to be responsible for

causing the accident. In any of these instances, the investigation and subsequent testing must take place within two hours following the accident, if not sooner. If the accident occurs outside of standard business hours, testing must be done at the earliest responsible opportunity. Refusal by an employee will be treated as a positive test result and will result in immediate termination of employment

*Under no circumstances will the employee be allowed to drive himself or herself to the testing facility. A member of management must transport the employee or arrange for a cab and arrange for the employee to be transported home.*

### **Random Drug Testing**

WVU Parkersburg conducts random drug testing of employees in its efforts to maintain a safe and drug-free workplace.

### **Random Selection**

WVU Parkersburg will randomly drug-test employees who work in safety sensitive positions for compliance with its drug-free workplace policy on a quarterly basis. Random testing means employees will be selected for testing using a computer-based random-number generator. This will result in an equal probability that any employee from the entire group of employees will be tested.

Positions subject to random testing include Safety and Security personnel, Bus drivers, and other safety related positions as needed. Any position that has state or federal safety regulations will be considered a subject for random drug and/or alcohol testing.

Each quarter, on a day selected by a computer-based random-date generator, the human resources department will pull a random selection of employee names and immediately notify the employees selected for testing. Testing must be completed on the same workday the employee is selected, absent extenuating circumstances such as out-of-town travel. In all circumstances, testing must be completed within 24 hours of selection.

If an employee selected for testing is unavailable for a legitimate reason such as an extended medical absence, human resources will document the circumstances for failure to test.

WVU Parkersburg has no discretion to waive the selection of an employee selected at random.

### **Substances Covered by Drug and Alcohol Testing**

Employees will be tested for their use of commonly abused controlled substances, which include, but are not limited to, amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, opiates, cannabinoids, cocaine, methadone, methaqualone, phencyclidine (PCP), propoxyphene and chemical derivatives of these substances.

Employees must advise the testing lab of all prescription drugs taken in the past month before the test and must be prepared to show proof of such prescriptions upon request.

### **Collection and Testing Procedures**

Employees subject to alcohol testing will be transported to a WVUP-designated facility and directed to provide specimens as directed by the designated facility. Breath specimens will be

tested by trained technicians using federally approved breath alcohol testing devices capable of producing printed results that identify the employee. If an employee's breath alcohol concentration is .04 or more, a second breath specimen will be tested approximately 20 minutes later. The results of the second test will be determinative. Alcohol tests may, however, be a breath, blood or saliva test, at the company's discretion. For purposes of this policy, test results generated by law enforcement or medical providers may be considered by the company as work rule violations.

Employees subject to drug testing will be transported to a WVUP-designated testing facility and directed to provide urine specimens. Applicants and employees may provide specimens in private unless they appear to be submitting altered, adulterated or substitute specimens. Collected specimens will be sent to a federally certified laboratory and tested for evidence of marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, PCP, benzodiazepines, methadone, methaqualone and propoxyphene use. (Where indicated, specimens may be tested for other illegal drugs.) The laboratory will screen all specimens and confirm all positive screens. There must be a chain of custody from the time specimens are collected through testing and storage.

The laboratory will transmit all positive drug test results to a medical review officer (MRO) retained by WVUP, who will offer individuals with positive results a reasonable opportunity to rebut or explain the results. Individuals with positive test results may also ask the MRO to have their split specimen sent to another federally certified laboratory to be tested at the employee's own expense. Such requests must be made within 72 hours of notice of test results. If the second facility fails to find any evidence of drug use in the split specimen, the employee or applicant will be treated as passing the test. In no event should a positive test result be communicated to WVUP until such time that the MRO has confirmed the test to be positive.

### **Use of Medical Marijuana**

While the West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act provides protections for medical cannabis cardholders, WVU Parkersburg is not required to allow its use at work. However, a registered employee cannot be fired for a positive marijuana test result alone, unless they are shown to be using it on campus or are impaired on the job.

### **Refusal to Test**

The following violations will be considered gross misconduct and shall result in termination of employment of a Covered Employee: Refusing to submit to a test, a verified positive drug test, a confirmed alcohol test of 0.04 or greater, a negative test because of a diluted, substituted or adulterated specimen as verified by the Medical Review Officer.

Employees who refuse to submit to a test or who adulterate, dilute or otherwise tamper with a test specimen will be subject to immediate discharge.

### **Consequences of Positive Test Results**

If an employee tests positive on an initial screening test, the employee will be temporarily suspended while the confirmation test is being conducted and reviewed by the Medical Review Officer.

A positive test result confirmed by a medical review officer of the laboratory will result in termination of employment in accordance with WVU Parkersburg's zero-tolerance drug-free workplace policy.

All employees have the right to discuss their test results with testing laboratory personnel and WVU Parkersburg. These discussions should be considered confidential except that information disclosed will be communicated to personnel within WVU Parkersburg or within the laboratory who need to know such information to make proper decisions regarding the test results or regarding the employment of the individual.

### **Recordkeeping**

All records concerning test results will be kept by WVU Parkersburg in medical files that are maintained separately from employee personnel files. Employees have a right to obtain copies of all test results from the testing laboratory or from WVU Parkersburg by written request and submitted to the Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance.

### **Retesting**

Employees may request a retest of their positive test results within five working days after notification of a positive test result. This retest is at the expense of the individual, unless the original test result is called into question by the retest.

Where the employee believes that the positive test result was affected by taking lawful or prescribed substances not in violation of company policy, the employee may be suspended without pay pending substantiation of the employee's claims. Employees will be provided no more than five business days in which to produce this additional information.

### **Consequences**

Employees who refuse to cooperate in required tests or who use, possess, buy, sell, manufacture or dispense an illegal drug in violation of this policy will be terminated. If the employee refuses to be tested, yet the company believes he or she is impaired, under no circumstances will the employee be allowed to drive himself or herself home.

Employees who test positive, or otherwise violate this policy, will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. Depending on the circumstances, the employee's work history/record and any state law requirements, WVUP may offer an employee who violates this policy or tests positive the opportunity to return to work on a last-chance basis pursuant to mutually agreeable terms, which could include follow-up drug testing at times and frequencies determined by WVUP for a minimum of one year but not more than two years as well as a waiver of the right to contest any termination resulting from a subsequent positive test. If the employee either does not complete the rehabilitation program or tests positive after completing the rehabilitation program, the employee will be immediately discharged from employment.

Employees will be paid for time spent in alcohol or drug testing and then suspended pending the results of the drug or alcohol test. After the results of the test are received, a date and time will be scheduled to discuss the results of the test; this meeting will include a member of management and HR. Should the results prove to be negative, the employee will receive back pay for the times/days of suspension.

## **Confidentiality**

Information and records relating to positive test results, drug and alcohol dependencies, and legitimate medical explanations provided to the Executive Director of HR & Compliance will be kept confidential to the extent required by law and maintained in secure files separate from normal personnel files. Such records and information may be disclosed among managers and supervisors on a need-to-know basis and may also be disclosed when relevant to a grievance, charge, claim or other legal proceeding initiated by or on behalf of an employee or applicant.

## **Inspections**

WVUP reserves the right to inspect all portions of its premises for drugs, alcohol or other contraband. All employees, contract employees and visitors may be asked to cooperate in inspections of their persons, work areas and property that might conceal a drug, alcohol or other contraband. Employees who possess such contraband or refuse to cooperate in such inspections are subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including discharge.

## **Crimes Involving Drugs**

WVUP prohibits all employees, including employees performing work under government contracts, from manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing or using an illegal drug in or on company premises or while conducting company business. WVUP employees are also prohibited from misusing legally prescribed or over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. Law enforcement personnel may be notified, as appropriate, when criminal activity is suspected.

WVUP does not desire to intrude into the private lives of its employees but recognizes that employees' off-the-job involvement with drugs and alcohol may have an impact on the workplace. Therefore, WVUP reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary action for drug use, sale or distribution while off company premises. All employees who are convicted of, plead guilty to or are sentenced for a crime involving an illegal drug are required to report the conviction, plea or sentence to HR within five days. Failure to comply will result in automatic discharge. Cooperation in complying may result in suspension without pay to allow management to review the nature of the charges and the employee's past record with WVUP.

## **Definitions**

"Company premises" includes all buildings, offices, facilities, grounds, parking lots, lockers, places and vehicles owned, leased or managed by WVUP or any site on which the company is conducting business.

"Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Medical Review Officer shall be designated by the President of WVU Parkersburg. Executive Director of Human Resources and Compliance shall be the designee.

"Refuse to cooperate" means to obstruct the collection or testing process; to submit an altered, adulterated or substitute sample; to fail to show up for a scheduled test; to refuse to complete the requested drug testing forms; or to fail to promptly provide specimen(s) for testing when directed to do so, without a valid medical basis for the failure. Employees who leave the scene



of an accident without justifiable explanation prior to submission to drug and alcohol testing will also be considered to have refused to cooperate and will automatically be subject to discharge.

“Under the influence of alcohol” means an alcohol concentration equal to or greater than .08%, or actions, appearance, speech or bodily odors that reasonably cause a supervisor to conclude that an employee is impaired because of alcohol use. For personnel who are considered safety-sensitive or security-related, the “under the influence” is stricter and follows the recommendation for commercial drivers at .04%. For personnel under the age of 21, there is a zero tolerance level of under .02%.

“Under the influence of drugs” means a confirmed positive test result for illegal drug use per this policy. In addition, it means the misuse of legal drugs (prescription and possibly OTC) when there is not a valid prescription from a physician for the lawful use of a drug in the course of medical treatment (containers must include the patient’s name, the name of the substance, quantity/amount to be taken and the period of authorization).

### **Enforcement**

The HR director is responsible for policy interpretation, administration and enforcement.

**Responsible Administrator: Executive Director Human Resources & Compliance, 304-424-8212**