

Drug Education and Testing Policy

The Catamount Recovery Program (CRP) is a supportive environment within campus culture that reinforces the decision to engage in a recovering lifestyle. It specifically strives to develop community and provide support for students in recovery from substance use disorders (SUDs). As such, students who participate within the CRP are expected to live abstinence-based lives refraining from the use of alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs.

The Catamount Recovery Program takes the position that drug testing based on reasonable cause is appropriate to ensure the health and safety of our Catamount Recovery Program members and to affirm compliance with University of Vermont rules and regulations concerning drug use.

Reasonable Cause Selection for Drug Testing

Catamount Recovery Program students shall be subject to reasonable cause drug testing under the terms of this UVM Catamount Recovery Program Drug Education and Testing Policy. Circumstances, conditions, or events giving rise to the need for individualized reasonable cause drug testing shall be submitted in writing to the Catamount Recovery Program Director, or designee, who is charged with authorizing and initiating the drug testing process on grounds of reasonable cause. "Reasonable cause" shall be based upon a specific event, occurrence or criteria, including but not limited to:

1. An arrest or citation by police or University authorities, which has led to the belief that a student has used a banned substance.
2. Direct observation of a physical or mental deficiency or of medically indicated symptomology of banned substance use, or of aberrant or otherwise patently suspicious conduct (e.g. dramatic behavioral change, unexplained absenteeism, unexplained or unreasonable mood swings, decrease in grades, incident of fighting, involvement with on-campus or off-campus legal authorities).
3. Information supplied by reliable third parties, including but not limited to law enforcement officials, if said information is corroborated by other reliable, objective facts.
4. A previous positive drug test or previous Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities Violation having to do with an alcohol or drug-related offense.

Drug Testing Collection Procedures

The method adopted by the UVM Catamount Recovery Program for testing for banned substances shall be through independent laboratory analysis of urine samples provide by CRP students. Students will be notified of their selection for testing no more than twenty-four hours prior to the date and time of the scheduled test. Notification will be by direct telephone or in-person contact by CRP Staff. Upon being notified, CRP students will be required to complete the Drug

Testing Notification Form (appendix), appear at the testing site at the indicated time, and provide an adequate urine sample.

A CRP student who does not appear for drug testing, refuses to provide an adequate urine sample, or attempts to adulterate, manipulate, substitute or intentionally dilute a urine specimen, shall be deemed to have violated the terms of this policy and such conduct shall be cause for the same action(s) as a positive drug test result for a banned substance.

The following drug classes may be included in the sample testing through UVM testing protocols:

- **Alcohol**
- **Stimulants**—cocaine, amphetamine (Adderall), methamphetamine, ephedrine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), etc.



- **Opioids/Opiates** – heroin, fentanyl, Oxycodone, Percocet, Oxymorphone, Hydrocodone, Methadone, Suboxone, Codeine, Morphine, Propoxyphene (Darvon)
- **Benzodiaepines** – Atavan, Valium, Xanax, Klonopin
- **Cannabinoids**—marijuana, THC, Hashish, synthetic cannabinoids (“spice”, K2, etc.), etc.
- **Barbiturates** – Amytal, Luminal, Pentobarbital
- **Hallucinogens** – LSD, PCP, Angel Dust, mushrooms, salvia
- **MDMA.MDA (ecstasy)**

Any substance that is chemically related to the class of banned drugs, even if not listed as an example, is also banned.

All samples will be divided into two samples, packaged and sealed in view of the student. Samples will be assigned an identification number (no name attached), and forwarded to an independent laboratory for testing. Results will be forwarded only to the UVM Catamount Recovery Program Director and the student, or designee. CRP Drug testing records shall be kept in a secure place separate from a student’s academic or medical records.

If a sample tests positive for a banned substance, the A sample is tested further to confirm the presence and specific amounts of the banned substance. If this second test confirms the positive findings, the test will be considered positive. If the student wishes to contest these findings, both the A and B samples may be forwarded, upon the student’s request and at the student’s expense, to another lab for further testing using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry methods. If student states that there is a medical reason for the positive test, student will be asked to have the prescribing doctor provide written documentation of medical need and prescription. If this documentation is accepted, the test will result in a negative result for purposes of CRP Policy.

Actions as a Result of Positive Institutional Drug Tests

Any CRP student who tests positive for a banned substance, or who refuses to submit to or fails to take a required drug test as described in this policy, shall be subject to the actions listed below and possible additional sanctions as described in the UVM Catamount Recovery Program Commitment Contract and Housing Contract.

Upon confirmation of a positive drug test to UVM’s Catamount Recovery Program Director, or designee, the student will be required to:

1. Meet with Catamount Recovery Program Director, or designee;
2. Agree to either an intensifying of recovery program or choice to leave CRP;
3. Move out of CRP housing;
4. Be subject to unannounced testing for the duration of student’s UVM CRP tenure.

Additional action may be required, depending on circumstances. Possible actions include but are not limited to:

- **Parental/Guardian Notification.** If deemed appropriate by counseling or medical staff.

Medical Exception Process

UVM recognizes that some banned substances are used for legitimate medical purposes. Accordingly, the Catamount Recovery Program allows exceptions to be made for those students with a documented medical history demonstrating a need for regular prescribed use of such a substance.

In such a case, the CRP student is required to inform the Catamount Recovery Program Director of all medications they are taking at the time of the pre-participation screening or at the first opportunity upon a new or altered prescription. The letter should contain information as to the diagnosis, medical history, dosage information and time when the prescription will expire or no further refills will be prescribed.



Name: _____

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Voluntary Disclosure / Safe Harbor

A CRP student who has engaged in prohibited drug or alcohol use is encouraged to seek assistance from the Catamount Recovery Program Director, or designee, by voluntarily disclosing his or her use. If a student makes a voluntary disclosure, the following shall apply:

1. Student shall be asked to leave CRP housing immediately, but will be placed in alternative UVM housing for the remainder of the semester;
2. Student will be asked to increase the recovery supports they have in place in order to refortify their program and give their recovery a chance; or
3. Student will be asked to leave the CRP if they no longer identify as a student in recovery desiring a recovering (abstinence-based) lifestyle.

Voluntary disclosure of drug use or other prohibited acts under the terms of the UVM Catamount Recovery Program Drug Education and Testing Policy shall not constitute immunity from University, local, state or federal citations or charges.