

Nichols College
Policy on the Use of Medical Marijuana

Although the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by the passage of Ballot Question 3 in 2012, created state legislation allowing the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, Nichols College does not allow the use or possession of marijuana on its campus, or at any location, event, or activity sponsored or controlled by the College.

The Massachusetts law, while allowing the use and possession of marijuana in certain circumstances by individuals who are suffering from a “debilitating medical condition” and who possess a state-authorized “registration card,” also provides the following limitations:

1. health insurance providers are not required to reimburse any employee or health-care provider for the expenses of the medical use of marijuana;
2. health care professionals are not required to authorize the use of medical marijuana for a patient;
3. employers, schools, and public places are not required to allow on-site medical use of marijuana; and
4. no person or entity is required to violate Federal law, nor is any person or entity immune from federal prosecution.

Nichols complies with the Federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act by prohibiting the use of controlled substances, including marijuana. Any violation by the College of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, or facilitation of or acquiescence to a violation of the Federal Controlled Substances Act, could jeopardize the College’s eligibility to participate in financial aid programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Further, a student convicted of an offense involving the possession of a controlled substance prior to or during a period of school enrollment in which federal financial aid was received, is ineligible to receive federal student aid for specified periods of time, depending on the egregiousness of the offense.

The Federal Controlled Substances Act defines marijuana as a controlled substance and makes no distinction between the medical and recreational use of marijuana. As such, the College’s position remains that the possession or use of marijuana on its campus, for any reason, is a violation of College policy subject to disciplinary action under the College’s Code of Conduct.

The College will periodically review this statement as needed or if changes occur in Federal law.