

IAIA Remains a Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Campus

With the sale of recreational cannabis across the state of New Mexico beginning April 1, 2022, the Institute of American Indian Arts campus remains drug and alcohol-free, including the use of marijuana.

Following a special legislative session in 2021, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the Cannabis Regulation Act into law, legalizing the use and possession of recreational marijuana for those over the age of 21, beginning June 29, 2021. The legislation also allows for the sale of recreational marijuana to begin by April 1, 2022, at state-licensed dispensaries.

Despite the state's legalization, IAIA's Alcohol and Substance Policy remains in effect. Students, employees, and visitors are prohibited from possessing or using marijuana or its derivatives, including but not limited to edibles, oils, wax, vape cartridges, for recreational or medical reasons, on the Institute of American Indian Arts campus and facilities. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of controlled substances (including marijuana), or alcohol on IAIA property or as part of any IAIA activities by any community member is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Although New Mexico regulates cannabis within the state, federal law restricts marijuana possession, sale, and trafficking through the Controlled Substance Act. Cannabis continues to be a Schedule I drug according to the United States Drug Enforcement Agency.

Since cannabis continues to be listed as a Schedule I drug by the federal government, its presence in any form on the IAIA campus would also violate the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, which bans illegal drugs on college campuses and public schools. Violation of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act could put the college at risk of losing federal funding, such as support for research and federal financial aid for students.

The IAIA Alcohol & Substance Abuse Policy is located in the [IAIA Student Handbook](#) on page 22. The handbook states, "The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) is a drug and alcohol-free campus also known as a 'dry campus.' 'Dry campus' is the term used to ban alcohol at colleges and universities, regardless of the owner's age or intention to consume it anywhere on campus or during any IAIA-sponsored activity. Students have the right to an environment free from the effects of substance abuse."

To help ensure the safety and well-being of our community, IAIA will take disciplinary action against students, who use, distribute, are under the influence of, in the presence of, or possess illicit drugs or alcohol on the IAIA campus or during any IAIA-sponsored activities (on or off-campus) or who violate state, federal or IAIA alcohol, and substance abuse laws and regulations.

The unlawful use of drugs or alcohol is inconsistent with the behavior expected of members of the IAIA community. Violations of this policy may result in criminal sanctions provided by federal, state, and local law and disciplinary sanctions from IAIA.