Faculty most often identifies student alcohol abuse when irresponsible, unpredictable behavior affects the learning situation or when a combination of health and social impairments associated with alcohol/drug abuse sabotages student performance. Because of the denial that exists in most substance abusers, it is important to express your concern about the student not in terms of suspicions about alcohol and other drugs, but in terms of specific changes in behavior or performance.

**Signs of Alcohol Abuse and Drug Use**

- Loss of time from school.
- Loss of interest in friends or previous relationships.
- Loss of interest in activities which were once of interest.
- Difficulty sleeping.
- Poor judgment.
- Mood fluctuations.
- Not fulfilling promises or obligations.
- Drinking outside of a social setting.
- Showing up intoxicated in inappropriate settings.
- Usually drinking to the point of intoxication.
- Experiencing memory blackouts during or after drinking.

**What To Do**

- Do not ignore signs of intoxication in the classroom or academic setting.
- Address the student privately about their behavior that is of concern.
- Offer support and concern for the student’s overall well being.
- Do not make allowances for the student’s irresponsible behavior.
- Do not convey judgment or criticism about the student’s substance abuse.
- In Syracuse, refer the student to Student Counseling (315-464-3120) or Student Health (315-464-5470). Call the point of referral to express your concern.
- **Notify the Dean of Student Affairs** (315-464-4816) in Syracuse and the Director of Student Affairs in Binghamton (607-772-3532).
- **Contact University Police** (315-464-4000) if the student is disruptive, uncooperative, hostile or endanger of injuring himself.