

## Stanford University Marijuana Policy Statement

On November 8, 2016, California passed [Proposition 64 the California Marijuana Legalization Initiative](#) (also referred to as the Adult Use of Marijuana Act) legalizing recreational marijuana for persons aged 21 years or older under state law and establishing certain sales and cultivation taxes.

Under this law, Californians can process, transport and grow limited amounts of marijuana for personal use as regulated under local municipal regulations.

Marijuana is still illegal under federal law and categorized as an illicit substance ([Drug Enforcement Agency Schedule I](#)) under the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Amendments of 1989.

Stanford University receives federal funding for various uses, including research and student financial aid. As such, Stanford must comply with federal law, including all current federal drug laws. Therefore, even though California has legalized marijuana for recreational use for some individuals, the possession, use, storage and cultivation of marijuana (as defined below) is prohibited on Stanford University property for all faculty, staff and students under the university [Controlled Substances and Alcohol Policy](#). This includes off-campus housing that is operated under university oversight and policies.

For purposes of this policy marijuana (cannabis) is defined here and includes the following non-exhaustive prohibited products.

Marijuana or cannabis refers to the dried leaves, flowers, stems, resin and seeds from the hemp plant, *Cannabis sativa*. The plant contains the mind-altering chemical *delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol* (THC) and other related compounds. Extracts with high amounts of THC can also be made from the cannabis plant. Cannabis can be manufactured into edible forms such as chocolate, cookies, candies, etc. Compounds can be smoked, vaporized and used as topical products such as creams or oils.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Now that California voters approved [Proposition 64 the California Marijuana Legalization Initiative](#) legalizing recreational marijuana for persons aged 21 years or older under state law don't I have a legal right to use and possess marijuana anywhere I want, including on campus?**

No. Although the new law permits the use and possession of recreational marijuana for persons aged 21 years or older under California law, it does not affect Stanford University's ability to set the policies for student conduct. As a higher-education institution, private-property owner, and employer, Stanford University has the right to define what conduct is permissible and expected within its community and on its campus.

**What is the relationship between federal laws that prohibit marijuana use and Proposition 64 the California Marijuana Legalization Initiative?**

Federal laws prohibiting marijuana use supersede state laws, including Proposition 64, that attempt to permit its use. Accordingly, if you use or possess marijuana, you are subject to prosecution under federal law, regardless of what Proposition 64 permits. See <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-update-marijuana-enforcement-policy>. Importantly, a conviction for drug-use under federal law may cause you to become ineligible for federal financial aid.

**Does Stanford University’s policy prohibiting marijuana use apply to faculty, staff, guests, and visitors to campus for special events?**

Yes. The Stanford University [Controlled Substances and Alcohol Policy](#) prohibits faculty, staff, guests, and visitors from using, possessing, or being under the influence of controlled substances including marijuana while on campus or during university activities.

**Where can I find more information on marijuana (cannabis)?**

<https://alcohol.stanford.edu/alcohol-drug-info/staying-safe/resources>  
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>  
<https://medlineplus.gov/marijuana.html>

**Where can I find more information on Prop 64?**

<http://vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2016/general/en/pdf/prop64-title-sum-analysis.pdf>