

# HEALTH RISKS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE

Many believe prescription drugs are a safe alternative to illicit street drugs, when in fact ER visits due to prescription drug abuse now exceed those due to illicit “street” drugs (SAMHSA). Each of these categories of substances present dangerous health risks, but education on the dangers of misusing these drugs can help keep students safe.



The possession of any of these medications without a prescription could result in legal consequences and can negatively affect your academic and professional career.

	Health Risks	Other Consequences
<p><b>Stimulants</b> Adderall, Ritalin, Vyvanse, Concerta</p>	<p>High fever, convulsion, anxiety, hostility, nervousness, seizures, increased heart rate, respiration rate, and blood pressure</p>	<p>Excessive strain on the heart which can lead to heart failure and death</p>
<p><b>Pain Relievers</b> Vicodin, Percocet, Oxycotin</p>	<p>Liver damage, intoxication, decreased mental alertness and concentration, nausea, vomiting, confusion, and decreased pain threshold</p>	<p>Regular and long-term misuse can lead to physical dependence and in some cases addiction</p>
<p><b>Sleep Medications</b> Ambien, Sonata, Lunesta, Rozerem</p>	<p>Lowered blood pressure, increased risk of respiratory distress, and increased risk of death when combined with alcohol</p>	<p>Combining sleep medications with alcohol is especially dangerous and can lead to death</p>
<p><b>Sedatives</b> Valium, Xanax, Ambien</p>	<p>Loss of coordination, slowed reflexes, respiratory depression, aggressive behavior, hallucinations, and inability to form memories</p>	<p>Sudden withdrawal can cause convulsions and delirium</p>

