

Drugging FAQ

1. How can I report a drugging to the university?

You have options for reporting a drugging to the University, including (1) reporting to the Office of Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance, (2) reporting to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, and (3) reporting to the University of Oregon Police Department.

If you know the name of the person who drugged you, you have the option of pursuing criminal charges and/or a Student Conduct process. Potential sanctions for drugging include suspension and expulsion from the university. Students who believe they have been drugged have the option to meet with an attorney from Student Survivor Legal Services and confidentially discuss their options.

2. What if I don't want to report to the university?

It is your choice whether to report to the University. We hope that you choose to do so, so that you can get the help and support that you need. And you have the right to seek confidential support from the Care and Advocacy Program in the Office of the Dean of Students. Disclosing to a Confidential Advocate is not an official report to the University because your conversation is confidential. A Confidential Advocate can provide support and resources and help you to understand your options, including the opportunity for supportive measures and to be reimbursed for certain medical expenses related to the drugging.

3. If I was drugged, does that mean that I was sexually assaulted?

While drugging sometimes leads to sexual assault and “date rape” drugs are often used to drug victims, the terms “drugging” and “sexual assault” have different meanings. The term “drugging” means causing someone to ingest an intoxicating substance or poison without their knowledge. The term “sexual assault” means nonconsensual sexual contact with a person’s intimate body parts. Both are prohibited under the Student Conduct Code. And both are crimes. Drugging need not have occurred in conjunction with a sexual assault to be taken seriously.

4. What should I do if I suspect that I've been drugged?

If you believe that you have been drugged, you are encouraged to seek medical attention as soon as possible. If you are interested in a toxicology screen as a result of a drugging, you should get a SANE (sexual assault nurse exam) at the Health Center or the nearest hospital emergency department. The sample can be used as evidence should you want to pursue criminal charges at any point in the future—though getting a SANE does not require you to do so. You even have the option of getting an anonymous SANE.

The Health Center will automatically route requests for a tox screen to their SANE staff, but at an emergency department you will need to specifically request a SANE to get the help you need. Also, a SANE is not one consistent process. In an examination, you can discuss your particular experience of harm, and the examiner will recommend relevant follow-up steps, including evidence collection, based on your unique situation. You can then consent to—or decline—any of those recommendations. If you only want or need a toxicology screening, that’s perfectly ok. You are encouraged to seek medical attention as soon as possible because many of the substances used in drugging cases will clear your system within a short period of time and will therefore not be detectable on a toxicology screen.

As long as you seek medical care within 120 hours (5 days) of an assault/drugging, the Oregon State SAVE fund covers the cost of testing and nearly all related medical costs. Any medical costs that are not covered by the SAVE fund can be covered by the University. An Advocate in the Care and Advocacy Program can facilitate reimbursement of your out-of-pocket medical costs.

5. What else should I know about drugging?

Ingesting intoxicating substances such as alcohol and/or marijuana can leave students feeling as if they have been drugged as they can impact your balance, your memory, and how you feel. In addition, if you take prescription medication, you are strongly encouraged to speak with your medical provider about the potential risks of combining prescription medication(s) with alcohol and/or marijuana, including edibles. Also, a percentage of the population is prone to adverse reactions to marijuana. So, if you choose to use marijuana, you are encouraged to do so carefully if marijuana is new to you.