

## CANNABIS FAQ

### WHY IS DVC OFFERING CANNABIS-RELATED COURSES?

The DVC Mission Statement reads in part that we “inspire, educate, and empower students to transform their lives and their communities.” Consistent with our mission, DVC offers courses and potentially certificates and degrees to educate and prepare students for employment in the legal cannabis industry, which is large and growing. The 2018 Farm Bill removed “industrial hemp” from the federal definition of “marihuana,” which is a Schedule I controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act. As a result, “industrial hemp” is not a controlled substance. In 1996, California became the first state to legalize medical uses of cannabis. Today, 38 states plus Washington, DC now have laws that allow the use of cannabis for medical purposes, and 15 states plus Washington, DC permit adult-use. Our program focuses on cannabis defined as “industrial hemp,” which is legal under both state and federal law.

### HOW WAS IT DECIDED TO OFFER THESE COURSES AND PROGRAMS?

As with any new course or program of study, the college administration, academic departments offering courses, various committees, and other stakeholders such as the Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC) are consulted prior to offering new courses. All offerings have to get approval of curriculum, meet accreditation standards, assure compliance with Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations statutory requirements, and comply with Contra Costa Community College District’s policies on course prerequisites, corequisites and advisories on recommended preparation.

### IS DVC ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO JOIN THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY WITH THESE COURSES?

DVC does not take a position on which lawful industries students choose to enter. We believe that Career Education should provide students with knowledge and skills to help them succeed in their chosen career. DVC coursework provides students with information and awareness of the opportunities available across a wide array of industries. We continually adapt our curriculum to prepare students for success in growing industries such as the legal cannabis industry.

### HOW IS HEMP DIFFERENT THAN MARIJUANA?

Both hemp and marijuana are from the cannabis plant but are cultivated for different purposes. Hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) is a genetically distinct biotype typically grown for fiber, seed, or oil. Under federal law, industrial hemp contains a concentration of 0.3% or less of tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, the compound in marijuana known for its psychoactive effects (the euphoric “high”).

Hemp is used in the production of a wide range of products, including food and beverages, cosmetics and personal care products, nutritional supplements, fabrics and textiles, construction and insulation materials, and other manufactured goods. In addition, hemp is used to produce non-psychoactive cannabidiol (CBD), which has shown enormous promise for a variety of medical applications.

Under the 2018 Farm Bill, cannabis with a THC content of 0.3% or less, is no longer considered a Schedule I controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Hemp does not have the psychoactive effect of marijuana.

Furthermore, the biology, growth, and development of the hemp plant make it a highly versatile and effective educational tool for demonstrating important concepts in plant science, botany, horticulture, and sustainable agriculture.

### **WILL YOU HAVE OR GROW ANY MARIJUANA ON CAMPUS?**

No. DVC continues to be a “Drug-free Campus.” Contra Costa Community College District and DVC policies prohibit the possession, consumption, sale, distribution, or delivery of any substance listed in Schedules I through IV of Section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. Section 812) on campus. Under the 2018 Farm Bill, cannabis with a THC content of 0.3% or less is no longer considered a Schedule I substance and therefore is not illegal under federal law. The college will continue to follow all federal, state, and local laws related to marijuana, which is still a Schedule I controlled substance and illegal under federal law. There are currently no plans to grow or handle marijuana on campus. Institutions of Higher Education, such as DVC, may cultivate industrial hemp consistent with state and federal law. While the school does not currently intend to cultivate industrial hemp on campus, individual courses may explore and educate students about issues related to industrial hemp and related products sold legally in California and across the United States.

### **HOW WILL DVC HANDLE ANY SAFETY OR LEGAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM?**

The **District Police Department** is the law enforcement agency for DVC in Pleasant Hill and San Ramon. They are first to respond during campus emergencies. The DVC Safety Committee focuses on the prevention of injuries and preparation for emergency response and ensures information and training is available to all employees. Training is a joint effort. The Safety Committee, District Human Resources, District Maintenance and Operations, District Police Services, and the college managers all participate in this important effort to keep the campus safe. The District Police Department is represented on the DVC Interdepartmental Cannabis Planning group and plays a significant role in ensuring that campus safety maintains a priority as these courses and programs are developed. District legal counsel has been, and will continue, advising the DVC Interdepartmental Cannabis Planning group to ensure compliance with local, state and federal law, and District policy.

### **ARE STUDENTS TAKING THESE COURSES STILL ELIGIBLE FOR FAFSA AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?**

Yes, these are state-approved courses, focused on the legal cannabis industry. Students who are eligible for financial aid can use it for these courses, as long as they meet other eligibility requirements such as course load and program of study. For more information on financial aid, contact the Financial Aid office at [financialaid@dvc.edu](mailto:financialaid@dvc.edu) or 925-969-2009.

### **WHAT PLANNED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES ARE INCLUDED IN THESE COURSES?**

There may be opportunities to study the cannabis plant on campus or on an approved field trip to an industrial hemp farm, laboratory, or other business that engages in activities that are legal under California and federal law. Students may have the opportunity to meet, network, and read or hear presentations from professionals working in the industrial hemp or cannabis industries. These interactions may be on campus or during an approved off-campus activity. Course activities and expectations are described in the course syllabus. As a “Drug-free Campus,” DVC prohibits the possession, consumption, sale, distribution, or delivery of marijuana or any other illegal substance on campus and during any campus-sponsored activity, including field trips.

### **WHO SHOULD STUDENTS, PARENTS OR THE MEDIA CONTACT IF THEY HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM?**

Here is the contact for information or questions about DVC’s Cannabis Studies Program:

Xiaofeng (Charlie) Shi  
Program Lead, Business Management & Entrepreneurship  
E-mail: [cshi@dvc.edu](mailto:cshi@dvc.edu)  
Telephone: 925-969-2352