

Questions and Answers

1. What substances are regulated by the state and/or federal government?

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulates both [controlled substances](#)— which are a drugs, other substances, or immediate precursors, included in [DEA schedule I, II, III, IV, or V](#)—as well as DEA [listed chemicals](#).

Cannabis is a Schedule I controlled substance.

The California Department of Justice regulates [precursor chemicals](#), which are compounds that are required in a synthetic chemical reaction or extraction process that produces another drug substance. There is some overlap between the California precursor chemicals and the DEA listed chemicals.

2. What is the process for obtaining California precursor chemicals or DEA listed chemicals?

The first step is to contact a [representative](#) from the UCSB Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS). EHS approval is required before acquiring or conducting research with these substances. The EHS Office will facilitate the researcher in purchasing California precursor chemicals or DEA listed chemicals, which must be purchased from a supplier located within California.

3. How long does it take to obtain a DEA registration for controlled substances?

New Applications (DEA Form 224) are processed within 4 to 6 weeks. Renewal Applications (DEA Form 224a) are processed within approximately 4 weeks. See the [DEA Diversion Control Division's website](#).

4. Who do I work with on campus to obtain a DEA registration?

The UCSB [Environmental Health and Safety Office](#) (EHS)

5. How do I get started on obtaining a registration?

See the [DEA website](#) for obtaining a new or renewal registration. Click [here](#) for more information about registration categories, activities allowed under each category, and fees.

6. What are the different DEA schedules for controlled substances?

DEA categorizes controlled substances into schedules [I, II, III, IV, or V](#). The lower the schedule number, the higher the DEA has determined the potential for abuse of the drug (i.e., schedule I and II drugs have been deemed to have the highest risk of abuse). The criteria for each schedule can be found [here](#).

7. How do I obtain university authorization for a research project using controlled substances?

Contact the campus Controlled Substances Program Administrator (CSPA) at Derek.iverson@ucsb.edu or x7256.

8. Who can use controlled substances for research on campus? How do I become authorized personnel?

Controlled substances shall only be used for authorized university activities by authorized personnel. Authorized personnel are faculty, staff, students, or visiting scholars who have a need to handle or access controlled substances for use in approved projects at UCSB. In order to become an authorized personnel, an individual must sign the Controlled Substance Personnel Screening Data Sheet (PSDS), obtain the authorization signature of a principal investigator, file a copy with EHS, and subsequently file for addition to the Controlled Substances Use Authorization (CSUA).

See the [UCSB Policy and Procedure for Controlled Substances](#) or contact a [representative](#) from the UCSB EHS Office for more information.

9. Can I procure controlled substances without a DEA registration?

No. Only authorized personnel with a valid DEA registration are permitted to procure controlled substances.

10. Where can I receive controlled substances?

Controlled Substances may only be received at addresses currently registered with the DEA by DEA Registration Holders. See page 6 of the [UCSB Policy and Procedure for Controlled Substances](#) for more information.

11. How must controlled substances be stored, transported, transferred and disposed of?

See pages 7-8 of the [UCSB Policy and Procedure for Controlled Substances](#).

12. Does the passage of California Proposition 64 impact the regulatory framework governing cannabis research at UCSB?

No. On November 8, 2016, California voters passed Proposition 64, which changed state law to allow adults aged 21 years or older to grow, possess and use marijuana for nonmedical purposes, with certain restrictions. However, the federal Controlled Substances Act still categorizes marijuana as a schedule I drug, which is the most strictly regulated category. This means that federal regulations do not permit the use, production, processing, sale or growth of marijuana, except for medical or research use conducted under special licensing requirements established by the DEA. Additionally, UC is the recipient of considerable federal funding for research, education, capital projects and healthcare. Accepting this funding obligates UC to comply with the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Workplace Act. Therefore, despite California's decriminalization of marijuana under state law, there is as yet no provision for the legal use of marijuana in research at UC except as already established and involving compliance with federal policies and regulations. This prohibition extends to any research conducted under the auspices of UC, regardless of whether or not the research is conducted on a UC campus or property.