

Frequently Asked Questions about Marijuana and Industrial Hemp Research

What is marijuana?

Marijuana, which can also be called weed, pot, dope, or cannabis, is the dried flowers and leaves of the cannabis plant. It contains mind-altering (e.g., psychoactive) compounds like tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, as well as other active compounds like cannabidiol, or CBD, that are not mind-altering.

What is hemp?

It is a strain of *Cannabis sativa* grown specifically for industrial use of derived products such as hemp oil, hemp cream, tea, bars, etc. Hemp has less than 0.3% concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and less psychoactive.

What is CBD?

A natural cannabidiol derived from hemp. It is non-psychoactive. It is commercially available in multiple forms such as capsules, creams, sprays, edible products, etc.

What is cannabidiol?

Also known as CBD, is a naturally occurring (non-synthetic) chemical compound that exists in the plants in the Cannabis family. Cannabidiol is a cannabinoid and non-psychoactive.

What are cannabinoids?

This is a term used for chemicals of the family of cannabidiols. There are 80 natural products that are called cannabinoids.

What is Cannabis?

An annual deciduous plant (*Cannabis sativa*) belonging to the family of Cannabaceae also known as hemp family used for recreational and medicinal purposes. This includes marijuana and hemp.

What is cannabis research?

It involves the growth, production, procurement, administration or use of marijuana and/or industrial hemp and their byproducts for research purposes.

Is Marijuana legal in NJ?

No. Recreational marijuana and research use of marijuana is not legal in New Jersey, but medical marijuana has been legalized since 2010 for qualified patients. Research use of marijuana and its byproducts require NJ and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license.

Am I allowed to conduct marijuana research at Rowan University?

You may conduct research after obtaining license from NJ Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) and DEA. Use of cannabis and its byproducts in animal and human subject research requires IACUC and IRB approval. Clinical trials using marijuana also require Investigational New Drug Application approval (<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/investigational-new-drug-ind-application/ind-forms-and-instructions>) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Do I need a license for Social behavioral research that does not use marijuana or cannabis products?

Social and behavioral studies such as interviews, questionnaires and surveys that does not involve the actual use of cannabis products do not require a license. However, observational studies that involve the use/consumption of marijuana or industrial hemp and their byproducts require a license and approval by the IRB.

Does research with marijuana or hemp and their byproducts require IRB review?

Yes, if such products are used in research. Social behavioral studies such as interviews, surveys and questionnaires even though they do not use marijuana and hemp products require IRB review very similar to IRB review for social, behavioral and educational research.

Why am I not permitted to conduct marijuana research on campus without a license?

Rowan University complies with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and Drug Free Workplace Act. Therefore, research studies that use marijuana with proper license from the DEA must not recruit Rowan University students or employees as subjects. So bringing marijuana or hemp and their byproducts are prohibited on the campus unless a license is obtained, and the university and the IRB has approved the research.

Am I permitted to apply for grants that will involve the testing of cannabis products?

Yes. However, if the grant is funded, you must obtain the CDS and DEA license (see below) before initiating the project.

How do I apply for DEA registration?

First, you must register with New Jersey Drug Control Unit CDS by going to the following link to download the form: <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/dcu/Pages/FAQregistration.aspx>. There is a \$40 fee for the New Jersey CDS registration. It takes approximately 4 – 6 six weeks to process and obtain certification. Researchers must obtain individual licenses to possess and use cannabinoids.

Second, you have to complete a DEA Form 225 to apply as a Schedule-I Bulk Manufacturer of marijuana (drug code 7360).

Can I use this license from another state to conduct marijuana research at RU?

No. New Jersey residents must obtain a New Jersey CDS registration and a DEA registration to use marijuana in NJ.

How do I obtain marijuana and other forms of marijuana?

Researchers should send requests to the project officers of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Drug Supply Program: Robert Walsh, (301) 443-9825, or Rik Kline, (301) 827-5243.