

# Not Just a Game of Chance

Gambling among college students has become increasingly popular, largely due to televised Texas Hold'Em tournaments, and increased accessibility and availability of gambling opportunities on the internet. Additionally, the availability of credit to college students can result in significant bank and credit card company debt. Students gamble on campus, at a friend's house, at nearby casinos, racetracks and other gambling venues. Gambling today is more accessible, more accepted and more glamorized than ever before but can lead to serious consequences for college age gamblers.

## Reasons Students Gamble

- Chance to win money.
- Excitement of placing a bet.
- Spending time with friends.
- Distraction from everyday life.
- Belief it is an easy way to get rich quick.
- Acceptance among their peers.
- To feel the "rush" of winning.
- To feel important.

## Consequences

- Don't leave their room because they're too busy betting online.
- Drop out of school or risk academic and athletic scholarships for a perceived chance at a better future by gambling.
- Experience serious financial and personal difficulties due to gambling.
- Experience thoughts of suicide.

## Problem Gambling and College Students



All calls are  
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Find help for problem gambling,  
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# Problem Gambling and College Students

## Warning Signs

- Thinks constantly about gambling.
- Relies on others to get out of debt.
- Is absent or late for work or school due to gambling.
- Has unexplained money or new possessions.
- Is impatient with or ignores friends and family.
- Delays or does not make payment of bills including college tuition.
- Uses credit cards for cash advances.
- Sells possessions.
- Steals money to gamble.
- Gambles for longer periods of time than intended.
- Gambles in spite of negative consequences.
- Gambles as a way to escape problems.
- Increases amount of bets to recoup losses.



*It is important to note that an individual with gambling problems may not necessarily exhibit all of these behaviors.*

## New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

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