In spite of the fact that cannabis is the most widely used illicit drug (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2010) and is now legal in multiple states in the U.S. (Colorado Amendment 64, 2012; Washington Initiative 502, 2012), factors that contribute to its continued use are not well understood (Latimer et al., 2000). One potential explanation for this lack of understanding is the belief that cannabis is a ‘soft drug’ with minimal addictive properties (Anthony, 1994). However, cannabis dependent individuals suffer a number of adverse side effects (e.g., Haney et al., 1999; Stephens et al., 1993; Heishman et al., 2001) and cannabis use has been associated with additional drug-seeking behavior (e.g., Kandel, 1975; Lamarque et al., 2001), as well as neuropsychological decline (Meier et al. 2012). This makes understanding factors that contribute to cannabis dependence important not only to better understand processes underlying cannabis use specifically, but also addiction processes more generally. As such the current talk will present results from a longitudinal study examining a broad range factors that contribute to future cannabis use and dependence. Specifically, I will discuss some of the genetic, neurobiological and social cognitive risk factors for cannabis use. If time allows, I will also discuss some of the consequences of cannabis use on executive functioning and college performance.