

# **Susquehanna University Risk Reduction Coalition Biannual Review 2020-2022 In Compliance with Drug Free Schools and Campuses Act**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Drug-Free Schools and Campus Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) require that institutions of higher learning (IHE) such as Susquehanna University adopt, implement, and evaluate programs to prevent the misuse or abuse of alcohol and use or distribution of illicit drugs both by university students and employees both on its premises and as a part of any of its activities.

This Biannual Review is required of Susquehanna University and includes data from 2020-2022. The purpose of this review is to assess and evaluate the University's alcohol and other drug programs, policies, program effectiveness, and consistency of policy enforcement, and to identify and implement any changes needed.

## **PROCESS**

Members of the review team were identified as stakeholders in alcohol use, outreach, prevention, and risk mitigation. The group began a series of meetings to complete the biannual review. The following documents and programming were considered in the review process: surveys of students in members' respective programs, policies, and other program-related documents, and SWOT analysis. The team used this data to develop recommendations.

Dr. Stacey Pearson-Wharton, Dean of Health & Wellness and Director of Counseling and Psychological Services formed the committee and serves as committee chairperson. The names of the committee members are as follows:

Chris Bailey, Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Campus Safety

Katie Grooms, Director of Residence Life

Sharief Hashim, Director of Athletics

Grace Lowry, Senior Director of Human Resources

Elizabeth Magill, Director Student Health Center

Jessica Manno, Assistant Vice President of Student Life

Samantha Proffitt, Senior Director of Student Engagement

## **Procedure for distributing Annual AOD Notifications to Students and Employees**

### **STUDENTS**

All student-associated policies are posted on the Susquehanna University website or myNest portal under the "Policies and Procedures" tile.

### **EMPLOYEES**

Susquehanna University reinforces a safe, alcohol-free workplace through our Drug-Free Workplace and Drug-Free Campus policy. This policy addresses expectations regarding alcohol in the workplace (Appendix A; [Alcohol & Drug Policy](#)).

### **STUDENTS**

The University prohibits the use, possession, and sale of illegal drugs. The University prohibits the sale of alcohol. Students who are 21 years of age or older may possess, for their own use, and/or consume alcoholic beverages only in the privacy of their own rooms or the privacy of a residence hall room of other 21-year-old students. All persons assigned to live in a residence hall room must be 21 years of age or older for the room to contain alcohol. Alcohol may not be stored or consumed in common areas of residence halls. Students who are under the age of 21 may not be present in the residence hall rooms where there is alcohol.

Alcohol is not permitted in other campus buildings or outdoors unless associated with an approved campus event. All events with alcohol present must be approved by a member of the president's senior leadership team or designee. Any university department wishing to have alcohol present at an event must follow appropriate procedures through Events Management.

Student Organizations wishing to have alcohol present at an event must follow the guidelines in the "Registered Events Overview," with the Office of Leadership & Engagement. Students may not use allocations for the purchase of alcoholic beverages.

Student tailgating is permitted for home athletic games and must be registered appropriately through Events Management and the Office of Leadership & Engagement.

## VIOLATIONS

When students violate the alcohol and drug policy, they are held accountable through a Restorative Justice Framework. The rubric for restoration after a student is found responsible is outlined in the table below. Harm to others or property is considered an aggravated violation and may increase a sanction level if a student is found responsible. Sanctions may be modified based on the severity of the incident, the impact on the community, and the student's Student Conduct history.

	<b>significant</b>	<b>serious</b>	<b>dangerous</b>
<b>First Offense</b>	Disciplinary warning/reprimand, parent notification, educational sanctions	Disciplinary reprimand/probation, parent notification, educational sanctions, alcohol assessment, fine	Disciplinary probation/suspension, parent notification, educational sanctions, alcohol assessment
<b>Second Offense</b>	Disciplinary reprimand, parent notification, educational sanctions	Disciplinary probation, parent notification, alcohol assessment, fine	Suspension, parent notification
<b>Third Offense</b>	Disciplinary probation, parent notification, alcohol assessment	Suspension, parent notification, fine	

### Examples of behavior that falls into the above categories:

- **Significant:** alcohol possession, actions under the influence.
- **Serious:** medical attention or hospital visit for alcohol reasons, arrest, behavior that negatively impacts the community.
- **Dangerous:** serious medical attention required, arrest, vehicular accident while under the influence of alcohol.

## Drug Violations Sanction Guidelines

The sanctions below are guidelines and may be altered at the discretion of the conduct officer or conduct board or combined with sanctions listed elsewhere in the Code of Student Conduct. Harm to others or property is considered an aggravated violation and may increase a sanction level if found responsible. Sanctions may be modified based on the severity of the incident, the impact on the community and the student's Student Conduct history.

	significant	serious	dangerous
<b>First Offense</b>	Disciplinary warning/reprimand, parent notification, online educational module, other educational sanctions	Disciplinary reprimand/probation, parent notification, educational sanctions, fines, assessment by a professional therapist	Interim suspension, suspension, expulsion, parent notification
<b>Second Offense</b>	Considered serious	Considered dangerous	
<b>Third Offense</b>	Considered dangerous		

### Examples of behavior that falls into the above categories:

- **Significant:** possession of drug paraphernalia without residue/evidence of drugs, misuse of prescription drug or over the counter medication or household products.
- **Serious:** possession of, use of, or under the influence of a controlled substance.
- **Dangerous:** repeated use of a controlled substance, irresponsible or unsafe behavior while under the influence of a controlled substance, sale or distribution of a controlled substance.

## AMNESTY

In the event of alcohol- or drug-related medical emergencies, Susquehanna University recognizes the possibility that some students may be reluctant to seek assistance out of fear that they may face sanctions through the student conduct process. The University seeks to remove barriers that prevent students from seeking the medical attention they need. The Medical Amnesty Policy, is as follows:

**When someone needs medical assistance due to alcohol and/or other drug use, individuals should always call 911 to contact trained medical emergency personnel.**

**Students who seek emergency medical assistance for themselves** for potential health risks related to the use of alcohol and/or drugs will not be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct related to consumption of alcohol or other drugs.

**Students who seek emergency medical assistance for someone else** for potential health risks related to the use of alcohol and/or drugs will not be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct related to consumption of alcohol or other drugs, so long as the student remains with the other student until help arrives and fully cooperates with University and emergency officials. In this situation, the student for whom the call was made will not be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct related to consumption of alcohol or other drugs.

**Student Organizations are required to seek immediate medical assistance for their members or guests when any potential health risk is observed, including medical emergencies related to the use of alcohol and/or drugs.** If leadership of a recognized student organization seeks emergency medical assistance for someone attending the organization's function because of potential health risks related to the attendee's use of alcohol and/or drugs, then the organization will not be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct related to registered events or consumption of alcohol. A student organization that fails to seek assistance for a member or guest in need may be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct. It is paramount that organizations seek assistance in any emergency. In this situation, the attendee for whom the call was made will not be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct related to consumption of alcohol or other drugs.

Importantly, in the situations described above, while not resulting in official charges or sanctions, all students seeking or receiving amnesty from disciplinary action under this Policy must meet with a university official within the Division of Student Life. This meeting may result in required educational outcomes related to the health and wellness of involved students. Failure to complete the educational outcomes may result in disciplinary action.

## LIMITATIONS

This policy does not apply to students experiencing an alcohol or drug-related medical emergency who are found by University officials, including student staff, law enforcement officials, or individuals not associated with the University.

A student organization that fails to seek assistance for a member or guest in need may be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct. It is paramount that organizations seek assistance in any emergency.

Students are not limited to one use of this policy, as the expectation is students should always feel empowered to help those in need.

This policy is subject to the discretion of the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, who may decide to overturn amnesty based on the health and safety of the student(s) involved.

This policy does not preclude the University from taking disciplinary action for other Prohibited Conduct that may be associated with the incident and outlined in the Student Handbook, including but not limited to damage to property, supplying alcohol or other drugs, sexual misconduct, theft, harassment, or assault.

Students should be aware that the University does not control actions taken by local or state law enforcement officials.

	Strategy/Program	Timeline	Description	Individual or Environmental	Effectiveness	Keep/Modify/Eliminate
Healthy Hawks	Alcohol Awareness Week	Once a Semester	Once a semester event of passive programming and events to prevent binge-drinking among our student population.	Environmental		Keep
Healthy Hawks	Alcohol Prevention Programs	Fall 2022	Size Matters Campaign is a tabling event with games and stickers, yard signs, and passive program with Melon Lounge & RA Boards	Environmental		Keep
Healthy Hawks	Marijuana Awareness Week	Spring 2021	Once a semester event of passive programming and events to prevent marijuana use in all its forms among our student population.	Environmental		Keep
Healthy Hawks	NCHA Survey	Fall 2021	The ACHA-National College Health Assessment (NCHA) is a nationally recognized research survey that provides precise data about students' health habits, behaviors, and perceptions.	Environmental	xxx participated in the survey	Keep
Healthy Hawks	Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Grant.	Fall 2020	We were awarded a grant from the PLCB for 2019-2020. The grant focused on reducing underage drinking, reducing high risk or dangerous drinking and promoting responsible alcohol consumption by those of legal drinking age. The monies from the grant were used to pay for the Ever-Fi online program, a student art contest along with printing and advertising. The total for the grant was \$15,000.	Individual and Environmental	Students report this as one of the most helpful pieces of RA training because the hands on practice allows them to better understand their own physiological responses when they have to knock on a door, address a situation, or provide care to a resident in need.	Eliminate
Housing and Residence Life	Behind Closed Doors	Fall 2022	RA training event where members of the student staff go through simulated events, including a toast with intoxicants in order to practice response and documentation best practices.	Individual		Keep and modify - we intend to further develop this and possibly a smaller refresher version for Spring training.
Counseling & Psychological Services	BASICS Refresher Training	Fall 2022	Three members of the Counseling & Psychological team did a refresher workshop with Mary Jane Rogan in preparation to start to do BASICS with students that have been transported.	Environmental		Keep
Counseling & Psychological Services	Alcohol & Other Drugs Assessment	On-going	Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Assessments are provided to address concerns around alcohol and drug use. AOD Assessments allow students the opportunity to specifically explore concerns around substance use, receive support and guidance, and determine a plan of action most useful in meeting their goals for change. A full assessment takes two scheduled sessions to complete. Sessions are typically scheduled one to two weeks apart. AOD assessments are a service that CAPS provides to students when referred by the conduct system at Susquehanna University.			Modify
Counseling & Psychological Services	CCAPS Questionnaire about Alcohol Usage at Intake	On-going	The CCAPS is a multi-dimensional assessment instrument used to assess clinical needs and pathology. The instrument has eight different subscales including one that captures alcohol use data. The Substance Use subscale contains questions about consuming drugs or alcohol more than one should, black-out symptoms due to alcohol use, enjoyment associated with being intoxicated, and regrets due to events related to drinking.	Individual	18% of 737 students who answered the survey indicated that they felt a need to reduce their drinking, and 5% of the students surveyed indicated alcohol as one of their presenting problems.	Keep
Counseling & Psychological Services	Service Provision	On-going	Treating students in therapy whose top presenting problem is alcohol or drugs. We treated a total of 677 clients.	Individual		Keep

**Description of Programming:** Programming efforts have focused on harm reduction, social norming, and binge drinking. We also highlighted our alcohol amnesty policy and how students can enact it. In addition, we were awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to help with our prevention work. We used the grant to support an art contest and used the winning image in our prevention programming for the rest of the year. The full list of programming is in the chart below:

	Strategy/Program	Timeline	Description	Individual or Environmental	Effectiveness	Keep Modify or Eliminate
Conduct	Amnesty Policy	Ongoing	When it comes to alcohol or drug-related medical emergencies, Susquehanna University recognizes the possibility that some students may be reluctant to seek assistance out of fear that they may face sanctions through the student conduct process. The University seeks to remove barriers that prevent students from seeking the medical attention they need.	Individual	While a benefit and designed to promote help seeking, the effectiveness is uncertain. This fall we had one person actually "use" or mention medical amnesty and it was awarded because they called for help though they did not indicate knowing about it.	Keep
Conduct	Expectations of Student Conduct- Underage drinking	Ongoing	Susquehanna University expects that all students will act in a manner that respects their own health and well-being, especially the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs. Students are prohibited from engaging in irresponsible, unsafe or otherwise improper behavior involving alcohol on or off campus, including by: 1. Purchasing, possessing, consuming or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages under 21 years of age. 2. Serving, distributing, furnishing or otherwise providing alcohol to individuals under 21 years of age.	Individual		Keep
Conduct	Under Age Policy- Parental Notification	Ongoing	Parents/guardians of dependent students under the age of 21 may be notified by the University if a student is found responsible for a violation of the University Alcohol or Drug Policies.	Individual	We very rarely use it, I do not think it is effective as a deterrent from folks engaging in the behavior but it needs to stay in the code should we want or need to use it.	Keep
Conduct/ Greek Life Athletics Human Resources	Social Event Policy	Ongoing	The University has adopted the following guidelines, to promote safety and adherence to state law and local ordinances at organization-sponsored events at Susquehanna University where alcohol will be available (BYOB per policies). These guidelines apply to all university student organizations recognized by the Student Government Association, Greek-Letter organization, and varsity athletic teams.	Environmental	The process is used a lot by Greek organizations, potentially because they know they are easily identifiable as a geographic group when together and partying. It is utilized by athletes, but not many other groups. It allows for risk management and accountability.	Keep

## DATA

To further evaluate the effectiveness of programs, policies, and documents we reviewed the following data: number of conduct violations, number of alcohol-related transports, and The National College Health Assessment (NCHA) data. In all areas, we noted improvements from 2020/2021 to 2021/2022.



## CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

In terms of alcohol related conduct violations in **2020-2021**, we had 73 cases with 242 unique students.

Charges Dismissed	2
Accepted Responsibility	32
Not Responsible	25
Responsible	19

In terms of alcohol related conduct violations in **2021-2022**, we had 56 cases with 89 unique students.

Charges Dismissed	5
Accepted Responsibility	25
Not Responsible	14
Responsible	5

## TRANSPORTS

The University's safety protocol requires students who present with intoxication and alcohol poisoning to be elevated for a higher level of care. The "Alcohol Overdoses" policy dated 4/13/18, states the following:

"...The difficult job for Specialists, when they encounter an obviously intoxicated student, is trying to determine if the alcohol ingested has reached its maximum effect on the individual. Or, if there are drugs involved that may also be adding to the intoxication. Further, it's very hard to assess if someone may be in danger of other circumstances such as falling, being hit by a car or choking if they vomit.

Because we are not medical professionals and do not have the ability to run medical tests on the scene, please err on the side of caution and call for EMS to do an evaluation if there is ANY doubt on the student's safety..."

The chart below illustrates the yearly number of students evaluated for higher-level care and transported to the hospital. Note a decrease in students being transported:

2019-2020 14 Transports

2020-2021 8 Transports

2021-2022 4 Transports

This data suggests a downward trend. This is positive.

## **NCHA**

**The National College Health Assessment The ACHA-National College Health Assessment (NCHA)** is a nationally recognized research survey that is used to collect precise data about your students' health habits, behaviors, and perceptions. The survey measures several variables such as sexual health, mental health, alcohol use, and abuse. The alcohol utilization numbers include social norms. We learned that 62.9% of respondents to the survey indicated alcohol consumption within the last 90 days. In the further analysis, we also saw a significant difference across white students, students of color, females, males and gender non-conforming students. That is, white students indicate higher use of alcohol compared to students of color in addition, female-identified students reported a higher binge drinking level than male-identified students and gender-non-conforming students.

When asked about binge drinking (5 or more drinks per sitting) within the last two weeks, respondents to the survey indicated the following:

- 21% of students indicated that they binge drank 1-3 times
- 8.3 % of students indicated that they binge drank 3-5 times
- 0.8 of students indicated that they binge drank 6 or more times

This further confirms that the University's social norming campaign is helping students to believe that everyone is not drinking as heavily as frequently as they imagine.

When asked about their use of other drugs in the last 30 days, respondents to the survey indicated the following:

- 31.2 % of students had used Marijuana, weed, edibles
- 0.3 % of students had used Cocaine
- 26.8% of students had used Tobacco
- 0.5% of students had used Prescription Opioids
- 0.3% of students used Prescription Stimulants

Noteworthy in these data is that the number for marijuana use is 10% higher than the national average and slightly higher than the number reported in our 2018 data. In 2018, NCHA data showed that 21.4 percent of students surveyed indicated the use of marijuana.

## **SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **STRENGTHS**

- Alcohol Edu Response Rate is 98%.
- We offer a plethora of opportunities to engage in activities that are alcohol-free.

- There are opportunities for student leadership, and they are expected to maintain a code of behavior that does not include binge drinking.
- The university has several rules that limit alcohol on campus.
  - Keg Delivery is prohibited and there is a positive relationship with local vendors who will identify the purchaser of a keg.
  - The state of PA has limits placed on days and hours that alcohol is sold.
- Clear policies about health risks, legal sanctions, and psychological treatment are distributed to all students and appear in the student handbook. SU also has a clear public policy for staff and faculty.
- The Counseling and Psychological Services staff members are trained and experienced in the treatment of alcohol abuse and addiction.
- The academic schedule promotes Friday classes. This helps to stay engaged the entire weekend and not start normal weekend activities on Thursday.
- Decreased use of alcohol, overall.

## **WEAKNESS**

- A lack of sober living spaces for students in recovery.
- Alcohol is regularly served at campus events.
- While we are working to limit alcohol at events and to increase the number of alcohol-free events, Senior Week is also a flagrant exception to this cultural shift. The 9-day event features alcohol-forward events.
- Weak relationships with the local bar owners.
- Independent events with a lack of a cohesive vision of how alcohol is handled on our campus.
- Late-night options for fun and food are limited.
- The alcohol prevention message is the primary responsibility of the Student Health Center and Counseling and Psychological Services departments. There should be campus-wide messaging to support cultural shift.
- More details for need in the alcohol policy, such as...
- With the changes in state marijuana laws, our campus policy needs to be clearer and more direct about SU's compliance with federal laws, including the Drugs Free Schools Act.
- Increased students' use of marijuana

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- To create/increase programming for students in recovery, including recovery meetings on campus.
- Sober living space for students.
- Examine Senior Week and its alcohol-forward programming and reduce the number of events that serve alcohol and/or evaluate how alcohol is used in this programming.
- Strengthen relationships with local bar owners. There are three primary locations that need attention: BOT's, BJ's and the Selinsgrove Hotel.
- Increased attention on marijuana use and abuse.
- Develop a cohesive program for alcohol and marijuana use.
- Target populations who appear to be at risk: women and first-year students.
- Strengthen relationships with local emergency services to ensure that when a student is assessed as needing a higher level of care they get it.
- Include more community members to help in planning for binge drinking prevention.
- Refresh efforts to launch a BASICS program to help with alcohol transports.
- Coordinate late-night programming and alcohol-free programming for students who don't drink.

## Appendix A

Susquehanna University is committed to the education of students when it comes to drugs and the legal, safe, and responsible use of alcohol. The misuse, abuse, or illegal use of alcohol and other drugs – on or off campus – including behaviors that allow underage drinking or promote excessive consumption of alcohol, are prohibited and will be addressed through the Student Conduct System if brought to the attention of university officials. As outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, students may be accountable in both criminal, civil, and university jurisdictions for acts that constitute violations of the law and of the Code of Student Conduct. Susquehanna will cooperate with all agencies responsible for the enforcement of federal and state laws concerning drugs and alcohol.

The University, by this policy, assumes no culpability for the behavior of any individual student with respect to his or her use or non-use of drugs and alcoholic beverages or for the results or consequences of his or her conduct and hereby disclaims such responsibility. In accordance with the intentions of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, Susquehanna University reserves the right to inform the parents or legal guardians of students under 21 who have violated laws on the use or possession of alcohol or drugs.

The university prohibits the use, possession, and sale of illegal drugs. The university prohibits the sale of alcohol. Students who are 21 years of age or older may possess, for their own use, and/or consume alcoholic beverages only in the privacy of their own rooms or the privacy of a residence hall room of other 21-year-olds. All persons assigned to live in a residence hall room must be 21 years of age or older for the room to contain alcohol. Alcohol may not be stored or consumed in common areas of residence halls. Students who are under the age of 21 may not be present in residence hall rooms where there is alcohol.

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