



Biennial Review 2018-2020

INTRODUCTION

The Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) requires institutions of higher education, including the University of Georgia (UGA), to certify they have adopted and implemented programs to prevent the abuse of alcohol and/or “the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs both by students and employees” on campus property or as a part of any campus activity. Institutions are required to have an alcohol and other drug (AOD) policy and distribute this policy annually to all students, faculty, and staff. More specifically, this policy must outline a university’s prevention, education, and intervention efforts, along with consequences for policy violations. In addition, members of the community must also be made aware of possible health risks associated with the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, along with resources available for assistance due to problem use and abuse.

The law further requires institutions of higher education to review AOD programs to determine their effectiveness and implement any needed changes, as well as ensure that sanctions for violating the institution’s rules regarding the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs are consistently enforced.

This Biennial Review report reflects ongoing efforts at the University of Georgia related to compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations.

THE BIENNIAL REVIEW PROCESS AT UGA

At the University of Georgia, the Division of Student Affairs coordinates the Biennial Review process and report on behalf of the University. To accomplish this, Student Affairs has charged a representative Standing Biennial Review Team.

Members of the UGA Standing Biennial Review Team include:

- Eric Atkinson, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
- Sige Burden, Senior Director of Faculty and Staff Relations, Human Resources

- Marshall Chalmers, Associate General Counsel
- Adam Fouche, Deputy Chief, UGA Police
- Alison Bracewell McCullick, Director of Community Relations
- Liz Prince, Director of Health Promotion and The Fontaine Center, University Health Center
- Matthew Waller, Chief of Staff for Student Affairs (Chair)

In completing this review, the Standing Biennial Review Team closely considered:

- New information collected from more than 40 campus partner offices, including UGA’s schools and colleges, through an online form;
- Existing campus data, including the National College Health Assessment; and
- Goals, evaluations, and recommendations from previous Biennial Reviews.

From this information, the Review Team compiled this Biennial Review report. This Biennial Review report considered the academic years of 2018–2019 and 2019–2020.

The Review Team’s consideration of potential opportunities related to UGA’s AOD program helped to shape the Recommendations included within.

OVERALL FINDINGS

From the information considered, the Review Team determined that the University of Georgia is in compliance with the federal Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations.

The University of Georgia affirms its commitment to a high impact, comprehensive public health approach in addressing the impact of alcohol and other drugs on the campus community. This approach includes a continuum of education, prevention, early intervention and recovery support programs.

[The University of Georgia Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs](#) addresses the required content outlined in federal regulations. The policy is distributed to every student, faculty, and staff member at least annually.

University schools and colleges, campus units, student organizations, and other affiliated groups collectively provide an AOD program for education, prevention, early intervention, and recovery support. Consideration of relevant data and reporting by campus partners, including the UGA Standing Biennial Review Team and senior leaders, helps to determine the effectiveness of the program and implement any needed changes. Dedicated campus units, including UGA Police, the Office of Student Conduct, and Human Resources, ensure that AOD sanctions are consistently enforced.

The University regularly completes an AOD Biennial Review per federal requirements. Biennial Review reports are available online and by request to UGA Student Affairs.

AOD POLICIES AND PUBLICATIONS

[The University of Georgia Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs](#) outlines the University's prevention, education, and intervention efforts, along with consequences for policy violations by students, faculty, and staff. The policy provides information on possible legal and health risks associated with the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, along with resources available for assistance due to problem use and abuse.

Annually in early fall, the University distributes the AOD policy and program electronically to all students, faculty, and staff as part of the [Safe and Secure Annual Fire Safety and Security Report](#). All members of the UGA community are encouraged to review the information in this report, and it is continuously available online.

In addition, a broad range of University schools and colleges, campus departments, student organizations and other affiliated groups distribute the policy and related AOD resources to stakeholders in a variety of ways. The policy is appended to the mandatory online alcohol and interpersonal violence prevention course required for all incoming first year and transfer students. Policy information is referenced in parent and student orientation materials and included in campus housing handbooks that each student living on campus is asked to review before they move into the residence halls. Many student organizations provide members with handbooks, links, or training that includes

information about the policy. Finally, numerous campus partners utilize websites, electronic communications, department meetings, staff orientations, postings on bulletin boards, and other training opportunities to share the policy and related information.

AOD PROGRAM

The University of Georgia affirms its commitment to a high impact, comprehensive public health approach in addressing the impact of alcohol and other drugs on the campus community. This approach includes a continuum of education, prevention, early intervention and recovery support programs led by a range of University partners. Regular data collection and reporting inform campus AOD efforts.

Following is a representative sample of AOD program-related efforts, including a broad range of University schools and colleges, campus departments, and other affiliated groups. Note this is not intended as a comprehensive list of all AOD programmatic efforts.

Franklin College

Study abroad and field study programs in the College review UGA and program-specific AOD policy and procedure during pre-departure orientation. They also review these policies and procedures during post-arrival orientation.

Greek Life

Sorority and fraternity chapter presidents receive training on the biology, research, and harm reduction approaches associated with alcohol use, as well as training on bystander intervention and social event guidelines. All new sorority members attend a seminar that includes a national speaker educating members about substance abuse and harm reduction. The Interfraternity Council hosts a series of educational talks about safety, risk management, and medical amnesty, aimed to provide education and a safe space for fraternity leaders (presidents, new member educators, and recruitment chairs) to discuss the realities of drug use and prevention.

UGA Griffin Campus

In the "UGA Griffin 101" session, incoming students discuss the AOD policy, alcohol awareness and sexual assault prevention trainings, and the Code of Conduct. During

faculty orientation, incoming faculty are informed about student expectations concerning alcohol awareness and safety, as well as processes and resources for providing student and staff support.

Human Resources

Designated employees receive training related to the Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing Policy. The HR-hosted Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides University employees with access to varied AOD and other support programs.

International Student Life

Incoming international students receive directed training sessions on health risks associated with AOD use and available campus and community resources through International Student Orientation.

School of Law

Students receive annual presentations on substance abuse and mental health issues specifically connected to law students and lawyers. These programs help to educate students on the danger of using AOD to manage stress and how to prevent substance abuse issues through healthy coping mechanisms. The School also hosts a week of activities designed to promote wellness and healthy ways to manage stress and anxiety. Activities focus on multiple aspects of wellness—physical, mental, emotional, financial, etc. so that attendees have multiple opportunities to examine their own behaviors across multiple dimensions.

College of Pharmacy

Through a two-hour seminar for first-year Pharmacy doctoral students, called “Substance Abuse and the Pharmacist,” the College educates students about substance abuse, as well as University and College policies and resources. The College also hosts an annual health fair, Pharmtoberfest, to educate the UGA community on health topics, including AOD, and provide point of care testing.

Recreational Sports

Officers of Club Sports teams receive training on hazing prevention, bystander intervention, the impact of alcohol and drugs in the decision-making process, and shared responsibility for safety. Ramseypalooza is a large-scale alternative late-night program hosted during the fall, drawing nearly a thousand students annually (impacted by COVID-19 pandemic).

Student Conduct

The Faculty/Staff Mentor Program, a collaboration between Student Conduct and The Fontaine Center, matches undergraduate students with a trained UGA faculty or staff member for one semester. Together, mentor/mentee pairs co-create a relationship centered on making the most of the UGA experience. The Mentor Program helps students clarify academic, career, and personal interests, become more connected and engaged at UGA, develop skills for addressing current and future challenges, and develop a course of action for achieve their goals. Students participating in the conduct process for a variety of conduct regulation violations can agree to complete the Mentor Program as part of their case resolution with Student Conduct.

Tate Student Center

Along with ongoing evening alternative programming, UGA hosts Late Night at UGA/Dawgs After Dark events more than ten times per semester on average (though this has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic). These free events for students, including outdoor films, lectures, and recreational opportunities, encourage students to participate in campus activities in the evening as an alternative to going to downtown Athens.

University Health Center

The Fontaine Center within the University Health Center provides a comprehensive range of prevention and early intervention through recovery support programming for UGA students. The Center also partners with stakeholders across campus to deliver AOD resources and education. High impact programs include:

- AlcoholEdu – All incoming University of Georgia first-year and transfer students complete an online module. Through interactive and personalized course content, AlcoholEdu provides detailed information about alcohol and its effects on the body and the mind. Whether they drink or not, the course teaches students AOD risk reduction and active bystander intervention.
- U-Matter Active Bystander Intervention Training Program – Ongoing student, faculty and staff training sessions prepare bystanders for interventions related to AOD, mental health, sexual assault, and violence prevention. The

programs aim to increase the odds of a UGA community member intervening to prevent harm, as well as creating a culture of care for well-being.

- BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students) - Open to all students, this confidential, evidence-based program helps students make better alcohol-use decisions and reduce risks for alcohol and other substance-related harm.
- Collegiate Recovery Community - Students recovering from addiction find peer support as well as other recovery support services while navigating their own college experience. Students receive academic and social support and programming, recovery protection, and community accountability.

University Housing

Students living on campus have the opportunity to attend numerous AOD-related programs and events in residence, including “Slow Your Roll” and “Alcohol and Other Drugs 101” on AOD awareness and harm reduction. Residential staff, frequently in partnership with The Fontaine Center, provide ongoing opportunities for dialogue and resource sharing on AOD issues.

University Police Department

Community members access ongoing information related to AOD awareness and medical amnesty law through the Department’s website. During campus orientation sessions, incoming students and parents also receive information on making safe and healthy choices regarding AOD. Police personnel also host and participate in numerous campus presentations to educate students and other audiences on the impacts of drug and alcohol use and abuse in the campus setting.

AOD ASSESSMENT INITIATIVES

Of the more than forty campus partners who submitted assessment information for the Biennial Review, most focused evaluation efforts on program efficacy by measuring indicators such as program attendance, number of incidents since instituting the training, and formal behavior change surveys. Those who focused on policy review stated that they review

their policies annually to ensure alignment with University policies and state law. Partners completing employee assessments checked to ensure the efficacy of training in harm reduction.

The following is a representative sample of AOD assessment-related efforts from a broad range of University schools and colleges, campus departments, and other affiliated groups. Note this is not intended as a comprehensive list of all AOD assessment efforts.

Greek Life

The department tracks the relative number of problems/violations during social events as an assessment measure.

UGA Griffin Campus

The campus utilizes participant evaluations to determine the efficacy of programming.

Human Resources

The department uses a quarterly utilization report to assess the effectiveness of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

School of Law

The School assesses the efficacy of wellness programs and events through event attendance and informal feedback from participants.

College of Pharmacy

The College uses attendance and student feedback, including a survey, for programming and events to determine efficacy.

Student Conduct

In addition to review of participant summaries provided by the program coordinator, the Mentor Program utilizes a pre- and post-experience questionnaire, comparing responses to evaluate if any changes for students are significant and whether they are associated with participating in the Mentor Program. Other programming is assessed through regular surveys.

Tate Student Center

On-site surveys and attendance are used to measure effectiveness of Late Night at UGA/Dawgs After Dark events.

University Health Center

- Alcohol Edu - Follow-up surveys immediately after and weeks subsequent to completion of the online course track changes in perception and behavior.

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- U-Matter Bystander Intervention Training - Ongoing assessment of program goals indicate behavior change of program participants and willingness to intervene and help others in specific situations.
 - BASICS - Students receive a follow up assessment three months after completion of the program that tracks program effectiveness.
 - Collegiate Recovery Community - The Health Center is currently working with a faculty researcher on an assessment plan and research project to evaluate the effectiveness of the CRC program.

University Police Department

The University Police Department reviews stakeholder feedback from website visitors and presentation participants.

FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

After reviewing the campus policies, programs, and assessment initiatives as part of this Biennial Review process, the UGA Standing Biennial Review Team offers the following recommendations:

- Continue to implement relevant recommendations from previous Biennial Review Reports, including regular distribution of best practices for campus AOD partners and the utilization of a central University-level contact for the AOD program. One opportunity would be to designate the new Student Affairs Well-being and Success Network as a coordinating partner for these efforts.
- Increase communication with and among campus AOD partners to create a more cohesive programming and assessment structure across service areas.