

American University

Drug Free Schools and Communities Act

Biennial Review

2008

Drug Free Schools and Communities Act 2008 Biennial Review

American University is committed to maintaining a healthy and safe community through education and intervention efforts on alcohol and other drugs. AU community members uphold university policies and abide by local, state, and federal laws pertaining to alcohol and other drugs. Individuals accept personal responsibility for the outcome of their decisions regarding alcohol and other drugs. Policies of American University regarding alcohol and other drugs are covered in the Student Conduct Code, the Residence Hall Regulations, and campus-wide alcohol and drug policies.

American University complies with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations through the following means:

1. The university maintains a copy of its drug prevention program. It can be found in the Staff Personnel Policies manual and on-line, The Student Handbook, and the Annual Security Report.
2. The university annually provides its employees and students with written and on-line materials that adequately describe:
 - a. Standards of conduct that prohibit unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on its property or as part of its activities;
 - b. A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol;
 - c. A description of applicable legal sanctions under state, local, and federal law;
 - d. A description of applicable counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation programs; and
 - e. A clear statement of the disciplinary sanctions the institution will impose on students and employees
3. The above materials are distributed to students through:

New student orientation sessions for graduate and undergraduate students via the Student Handbook and posted on Web sites
4. The means of distribution provides reasonable assurance that each student receives the materials annually.
5. The institution's distribution plan makes provisions for students who transfer to or enroll at the university in the spring semester to receive the materials.
6. The above materials are distributed to faculty and staff during new staff and faculty orientation, are maintained on university Web sites, and are electronically transmitted through campus e-mail when updates to campus policies are implemented.
7. The means of distribution provides reasonable assurance that each staff and faculty member receives the materials annually and during all new staff orientations.
8. The institution conducts biennial reviews of its drug prevention programs to determine its effectiveness, implements necessary changes, and ensures that disciplinary sanctions are enforced through the following means:

- a. Implementation of the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey;
 - b. Assessment of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services AOD education programs; and
 - c. Assessment of documented drug treatment referrals for students and employees
9. The Office of the Dean of Students and General Counsel are responsible for conducting the biennial reviews and consulted with various university offices for this review including but not limited to Human Resources, Office of the Provost, Housing and Dining Programs, Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services, and Public Safety.
 10. Copies of the biennial review are kept in the Office of the Dean of Students with Associate Dean of Students, Sara Waldron, Office of General Counsel with Assistant General Counsel, Justin Perillo, and Office of the Provost with Sr. Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs Haig Mardirosian.

A. Description of AOD Program Elements

1. Alcohol Free Options

The campus provides an environment with alcohol-free options through:

- Promoting alcohol-free events and activities
- Student service learning or volunteer opportunities exist through the Community Service Center. These are publicized and promoted.
- The University Center, sports arena, recreation center, and all other campus venues are alcohol-free

2. Normative Environment

The campus creates a social, academic, and residential environment that supports health promoting norms in the following ways:

- Exams and projects increasingly require class attendance and academic responsibility
- All residence halls are substance-free.
- The new strategic plan encourages an increase in academic standards.
- Faculty and staff are educated about behavioral indicators, student norms, and cultural attitudes related to high risk and illegal alcohol and drug use. The dean of students office does outreach with faculty and academic advisors about how to identify a student who may be abusing alcohol or drugs and how to refer them for help.
- The dean of students office and provost office collaborated on a fact sheet, “Knowing our Students”, that deals with alcohol and drug issues in the classroom.
- Faculty are encouraged to engage in a high level of contact with students through office hours, extracurricular activities and involvement in living learning communities.
- Students are educated about misperceptions of drinking norms through new student orientation and in passive programming throughout the year.
- Students have opportunities to advise and mentor their peers through peer education programs.
- Pro-health messages are publicized throughout campus.
- The new strategic plan emphasizes wellness for the entire campus community.

3. Alcohol Availability

The AOD prevention program limits alcohol availability through the following means:

- Alcohol is restricted on campus. All community members must follow the alcohol policy.
- Alcohol use is prohibited in public places.
- Kegs are prohibited on campus.
- Alcohol servers are required to be trained.
- Guidelines for off-campus parties are distributed.

4. Marketing and Promotion of Alcohol

The marketing and promotion of alcohol on campus is limited in the following ways:

- Alcohol advertising is banned on campus
- Alcohol industry sponsorship for on and off-campus events is banned
- No images of alcohol, e.g. mugs, kegs, or drinking behaviors, are allowed in publications
- Alcohol promotions with special appeals to underage drinking are banned

5. Policy Development and Enforcement

AOD policies are developed and enforced on and off-campus through the following means:

- On-campus functions involving alcohol must have approval through the application process.
- ID checks are enforced.
- Disciplinary sanctions for violations of campus AOD policies are enforced.
- Students who receive citations off-campus for underage drinking or distribution of alcohol to minors are held accountable through the campus judicial process.
- Servers of alcohol are educated about potential liabilities.
- Penalties for possessing fake IDs are enforced.
- DUI laws are enforced on and off-campus by appropriate law enforcement agencies.

B. AOD Program Goals and Goal Achievement

American University is committed to educating students and the campus community about alcohol and other drugs and the risks associated with use and abuse. For students, this includes not only the physical risks of use but also the academic, social, and emotional risks that could be consequences of the choices they make about alcohol. The office of the dean of students administers the **Core Alcohol and Drug Survey** with the support of the provost's office every three years. Survey results give us a more accurate understanding of students' use and the perceptions of use for alcohol and other drugs. The Core has shown us that despite our educational efforts over the last 6 six years, we have not seen any significant decrease in the use of alcohol on campus. We have seen improvement in students' awareness about campus policies and the enforcement of these policies.

Another concern has been the increasing numbers of **students transported to the hospital** due to intoxication. AY 07 - 08 saw the highest number of students transported with 52, compared to 37 in AY 06 – 07. A reason for the increase in transport numbers could be that our students are educated more about the signs of alcohol poisoning and do call for medical help when it is needed. In the past, emergency providers allowed students the option to refuse transport if the student was coherent enough to sign a medical waiver. Because of the concern for students who were allowed to

remain in the residence halls despite being highly intoxicated, Housing and Dining worked with the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Public Safety to reduce the number of students who were able to refuse transport.

Over the past two years, we observed a growing number of students who were transported more than once. It is our belief that more than one transport to the hospital is an indicator of a serious problem with alcohol. As a result, we **changed the transport protocol** to include a provision that made the second transport to the hospital a violation of the Student Conduct Code. Students who were transported for a second time, whether in an annual period or anytime during their enrollment at the university, had disciplinary charges filed against them. Sanctions for a second transport included the creation of a disciplinary file, mandatory referral for an alcohol and drug evaluation, compliance with recommended treatment, and parental notification. While we continue to receive negative feedback from students about the change in the protocol, the university remains committed to its enforcement.

A major achievement was the hiring of a **full time alcohol and drug health educator** in the Wellness Center. As a result we saw increased programming around programming with an emphasis on the increased risks of sexual assault and unwanted sexual activity while under the influence. The health educator also assumed responsibility for meeting with transports. Moving transports out of the dean's office and to the Wellness Center helped to enforce our philosophy that transports are a matter of health and safety rather than disciplinary issues. Additionally, the health educator met with students who were able to refuse transport and students who hosted guests who were transported.

In the fall of 2006, we reestablished an **Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting on campus for students. This group has continued to meet with twelve to sixteen students attending on a regular basis. Other achievements include the publishing of a one page fact sheet for faculty, **Knowing Our Students: Alcohol and Other Drug Issues in the Classroom**. The sheet contains information on how to identify a student who may be abusing alcohol or other drugs and how to refer them to campus resources. In the fall of 2007, The University Center hired a part time graduate assistant to plan alternative late night and weekend programs to provide students with on-campus activities.

C. Summaries of AOD Program Strengths and Weaknesses

American University maintains a harm reduction philosophy to students' alcohol use. Realizing that many students will choose to drink, our aim is to provide them with education that will help to keep them as safe as possible. Alcohol education begins during **New Student Orientation** with presentations made by peers about the realities of alcohol and other drugs on campus. The associate dean of students and director of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services present the facts about alcohol and drug use on campus and the consequences of students' choices to parents and students through, "Think: Alcohol and Drugs at AU".

The university observes **National Collegiate Alcohol Week** each fall. Keynote speakers have included Judge Mitch Crane who spoke to over 500 Greeks and athletes about the responsible use of alcohol, Ross Szabo who talked about alcohol and mental health issues in, "Mixed Drinks, Mixed Emotions", and John McCardell who presented on the "Amethyst Initiative". Additionally, we do a program on **drunk and impaired driving** every December called, "Checkpoint Sobriety". This collaboration with Public Safety and the Wellness center educates students about the physical effects of alcohol and drugs on one's ability to operate a vehicle. The program also gives students tips on

how to stop an impaired friend from driving. Each year during **Safe Spring Break** we educate students about responsible choices around alcohol, blood alcohol levels, and the increased risk of injury and sexual violence while under the influence. Additionally, during the year we do programming with athletes and Greeks about alcohol and provide tips on the responsible hosting of parties off-campus. Greeks are required by their national organizations to do risk management programs on alcohol and other drugs.

D. AOD Policy

1. Policy Contents

The university distributes the following AOD information to employees and students:

- A description of health risks associated with alcohol abuse and the use of illegal drugs
- A description of applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal laws
- A statement of the institution's disciplinary measures regarding alcohol and illegal drug use by students and employees

2. Policy Distribution

AU publicizes its alcohol and drug policies through the following means:

- Student Handbook
- Staff Reference Guide
- Admissions materials
- Course catalogue
- New Student Orientation
- New Staff and Faculty Orientation

E. Recommendations for Revising AOD Prevention Programs

The reduction of alcohol and other drug abuse on campus remains a priority for the office of the dean of students. The associate dean of students will participate in NASPA's Strategy Conference on Alcohol Abuse and Prevention in January 2009. We will continue to increase our understanding of best practices in the field and apply this knowledge at American University. We will increase our participation in training sessions for residence hall assistants and professional residence hall staff about alcohol abuse on campus, consistent enforcement of policies, and increase awareness about the alcohol transport protocol. Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services is revising the content of the independent learning contract to make it more relevant and educational as a sanction for students who violated alcohol policies on campus. The Student Health Center/Wellness Center is developing content for Web pages on alcohol and other drugs to be on-line by fall of 2009.

Other recommendations include:

- Continue to limit the number of upperclassman returning to campus for the fall semester by scheduling the move-in date closer to the first weekend before classes begin. This will reduce the peer pressure of upperclassman on first year students to engage in underage drinking on and off-campus.
- Update the content for the AOD information session during New Student Orientation for both parents and students to be more engaging and informative.

- Explore the use of breathalyzers by Public Safety Officers to determine if and when a student is intoxicated to a degree that requires transport for medical attention.
- Work with Human Resources to electronically distribute the alcohol policies to the campus community on an annual basis.

F. Fatalities, Violations, and Sanctions Related to Drugs and Alcohol

There have been no fatalities related to drugs and alcohol on the university's campus during 2006 – 2008. The following information details the number of violations and types of sanctions related to Drugs and Alcohol under the University's Conduct Code:

Year 1 means January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007.

Year 2 means January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008.

Number of alcohol charges

Year 1: 363 total charges- 106 students found responsible/ 106 students found not responsible.

Year 2: 138 total charges - 68 found responsible / 70 students found not responsible.

Number of drug charges

Year 1: 47 - 40 students found responsible / 7 students found not responsible

Year 2: 10 - 10 students found responsible

Number of sanctions issued as a result of alcohol violations for the below time frame:

Year 1/ Alcohol Sanctions:

Suspension:	3
Disciplinary Probation:	34
Censure:	220
Community Restitution:	41
Barring order:	4
"Heads Up" Alcohol and Other Drug Education Class:	76
Individualized Learning Contract - Alcohol Education:	104
Alcohol and Other Drug Evaluation:	7
Removal of housing:	4
Parental Notification:	23
Questionnaire:	178
Alcohol and Other Drug Educator Meetings:	177
Inability to participate in Greek Recruitment:	2
Alcohol Online Class:	14
Reflection paper:	66
Creative Sanction (bulletin board/interview/etc.):	14

Year 2/ Alcohol Sanctions:

Suspension:	1
Disciplinary Probation:	9
Censure:	58
Community Restitution:	11
Barring order:	3
"Heads Up" Alcohol and Other Drug Education Class:	23

Individualized Learning Contract - Alcohol Education:	39
Alcohol Consumption Education:	3
Alcohol and Other Drug Evaluation:	7
Removal of housing:	2
Parental Notification:	1
Questionnaire:	61
Alcohol and Other Drug Educator Meetings:	5
Reflection paper:	7
Creative Sanction (bulletin board/interview/etc.):	16

Number of sanctions issued as a result of drug violations for the below time frame:

Year 1/ Drug Sanctions:

Suspension:	1
Disciplinary Probation:	38
Censure:	4
Community Restitution:	39
Barring order:	2
"Heads Up" Alcohol and Other Drug Education Class:	17
Individualized Learning Contract - Drug Education:	7
Alcohol and Other Drug Evaluation:	17
Removal of housing:	1
Parental Notification:	37
Questionnaire:	23
Alcohol and Other Drug Educator Meetings:	24
Inability to participate in Greek Recruitment:	1
AOD Ed:	1
Reflection paper:	2
Creative Sanction (bulletin board/interview/etc.):	8

Year 2 / Drug Sanctions:

Suspension:	1
Disciplinary Probation:	9
Censure:	1
Community Restitution:	9
Barring order:	1
"Heads Up" Alcohol and Other Drug Education Class:	4
Individualized Learning Contract - Drug Education:	3
Alcohol and Other Drug Evaluation:	1
Parental Notification:	7
Questionnaire:	7
Alcohol and Other Drug Educator Meetings:	7
Creative Sanction (bulletin board/interview/etc.):	7

For additional information regarding violations related to drugs and alcohol, please see the following attachments:

- 2006-2007 Transports
- 2006-2007 Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force Annual Report
- 2007 Fall Housing and Dining Observations on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- 2007 Public Safety Report on AOD Violations
- 2007-2008 Transports
- 2007-2008 Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force Annual Report
- 2008 Fall Housing and Dining Observations on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- 2008 Public Safety Report on AOD Violations, Main Campus, Tenley Campus

Attachments

2008 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey Results Executive Summary
Alcohol and Drug Use at AU: Frequently Asked Questions (for campus distribution)
2006 – 2007 Transports
2006 – 2007 Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force Annual Report
2006 – 2007 Critical Issues AOD Programming
2007 Fall Housing and Dining Observations on Alcohol and Drugs
2007 Public Safety Annual Security Report on AOD Violations
2007 -2008 Transports
2007 – 2008 Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force Annual Report
2007 – 2008 Critical Issues AOD Programming
2008 Spring Housing and Dining Observations on Alcohol and Drugs
2008 Fall Housing and Dining Observations on Alcohol and Drugs
2008 Public Safety Annual Security Report on AOD Violations Main Campus, Tenley Campus
2008 Public Safety Annual Security Report, Alcohol and Drug Policy
Knowing Our Students: Alcohol and Other Drug Issues in a Classroom Context
University Codes, Policies and Guidelines: Alcohol and Other Drugs (Student Handbook)