

Biennial Review of Alcohol and Other
Drug Policies and Programming
2020- 2022
Division of Student Services
June 30, 2022

Executive Summary

Arkansas State University acknowledges the importance of reducing problematic drinking on campus and understands that college drinking can pose a threat to achieving the institution's educational mission. Research shows that high risk drinking negatively impacts class attendance, time spent studying, and grade point averages. Reduced academic performance, in turn, affects student retention and contributes to lost revenue. Alcohol abuse often leads to health problems such as sleep issues and depression. Other risks or consequences include impaired driving, sexual assaults, unintentional injuries, and suicide attempts. Institutions of higher education such as the Arkansas State University are required by the Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act to conduct a biennial review of their alcohol and other drug programs and policies to determine effectiveness and consistency of policy enforcement, in order to identify and implement needed changes. An assessment that has helped the university in this endeavor is the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey. The survey collects data on student behaviors and attitudes related to alcohol and drugs. This review serves to summarize and evaluate the drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs implemented by Arkansas State University during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years. It also highlights the alcohol and other drug prevention efforts conducted over the past two years and ways in which the institution meets the requirements of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act. For these efforts to improve and expand, steps need to be taken at the institutional level.

Compliance with Drug Free Schools and Communities Act

Arkansas State University is in compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and continues to fulfill the requirements related to programming, annual notification, and biennial review. The University maintains written policies on alcohol and other drugs and distributes this annually to all students and employees.

Policies for Students

The University Statement on Alcohol and Drugs, as well as, the Drug Free Schools and Communities policy can be found in the Student Handbook at:

<http://www.astate.edu/a/student-conduct/student-standards/handbook-home.dot>

For those living in residential housing, additional policies can be found in the Student Handbook under University Housing.

Annual Notification for Students

Students receive an annual notification through their University email account each fall which includes the Annual Security Report and the Campus Fire Safety and Compliance Report. Within the Annual Security Report, the following items are referenced:

The standards of conduct, possible legal sanctions and penalties, counseling and treatment programs available, and disciplinary sanctions for violations. The Annual Security Report and the Campus Fire Safety and Compliance Report can both be found on the University's website:

<https://www.astate.edu/a/police/crime-stats/> .

Policies for Employees

All new employees must sign a document saying that they have read the Employee and Faculty Handbook. The “Drug-free Workplace Policy” is listed in the Employee and Faculty Handbook.

Policy information and links to Board of Trustees policies on Alcohol Use and Drug-free Workplace can be found in the Staff Handbook and Faculty Handbook at the following link: <https://www.asusystem.edu/about/handbooks/>

Additional policy links:

Board policy - Drug-free Workplace: <https://www.asusystem.edu/dotAsset/1d932d79-299e-4c68-bc21-098f2727d8df>

Board policy - Alcohol Use on Campus: <https://www.asusystem.edu/dotAsset/0e1f5e98-e4d6-4ee1-b3a8-7e7c981aeb9d>

Annual Notification for Employees

Employees receive an annual notification through their University email account each fall which includes the Annual Security Report and the Campus Fire Safety and Compliance Report. Within the Annual Security Report, the following items are referenced:

The standards of conduct, possible legal sanctions and penalties, counseling and treatment programs available, and disciplinary sanctions for violations.

University Enforcement

According to the University Statement on Alcohol and Drugs found in the Employment Handbook, “It is the policy of Arkansas State University to maintain an educational and working environment which is free from the influence of unlawful drugs and alcohol in compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Workplace Act. Therefore, it is the policy of Arkansas State University that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use, of a controlled substance/or alcohol on any property owned or maintain by Arkansas State University or as a part of any university activities is strictly prohibited.”

According to the Statement in the Employment handbook, “Individuals who violate this policy will be subject to a number of sanctions imposed both by the university and by the state and federal criminal justice systems, including termination of employment.”

According to the Statement in the Annual Security Report, “Sanctions for Non-Academic Misconduct will be imposed by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs/Dean of Students or their designee upon individuals, groups or organizations that have been found responsible for violating the Standards of Student Conduct. The following sanctions may be imposed for Non-Academic Misconduct:

- Educational Task - Completion of a task which educates the student about and allows the student to learn from the misconduct.
- Written Warning - Official record that a student has been warned about behavior.
- Removal of Property - Required removal of property.
- Restitution - Reimbursement by the student to cover the cost of repair or replacement of damaged or misappropriated property.

- Restriction of Activities or Privileges - Restriction of active status or participation in any and/or all organized university activities other than required academic endeavors for a designated period of time. These restrictions may include, but are not limited to, denial of the right to represent the University in any way, access to facilities or individuals, parking privileges, and/or participation in co-curricular activities.
- Fees - Monetary requirements based on the resolution of a case.
- Conduct Probation - A period of self-reflection, during which a student is on official warning that subsequent violations of university rules, regulations or policies are likely to result in a more severe sanction including suspension or expulsion from the university.
- Housing Probation - A period of self-reflection, during which a student is on official warning that subsequent violations of university rules, regulations or policies are likely to result in a more severe sanction including relocation or removal from university housing.
- University Housing Relocation - Required movement to another room, hall, floor, wing or building within University Housing. Once assigned this sanction, students must relocate in no more than 24 hours, after which the relocated student cannot enter the room, hall, floor, wing or building he/she was removed from throughout their term of probation without permission from the Director of University Housing, Director of Student Conduct or designee.
- Removal from University Housing - Required removal from university housing. This action occurs without the refund of room fees. Once assigned this sanction, students must move within the designated time required or no more than 72 hours, after which the removed student cannot enter university housing without permission from the Director of University Housing, Director of Student Conduct or designee.
- Conduct Suspension - Temporarily canceling a student's enrollment at Arkansas State University. A student cannot graduate while suspended. Once assigned this sanction, students are immediately removed from their classes and banned from university property. A student cannot enter university property during their term of suspension without prior permission from the Director of Student Conduct or designee. Any classes taken at another institution during this period of suspension cannot be transferred to Arkansas State University.
- Expulsion - Permanently canceling a student's enrollment at Arkansas State University. A dismissed student cannot re-enroll or graduate. Once assigned this sanction, students are immediately removed from their classes and banned from university property. A student cannot enter University property once dismissed without prior permission from the Director of Student Conduct or designee.
- Revocation or Denial of Degree - The University reserves the right to revoke or refuse to confer a degree on the basis of a violation of the Standards of Student Conduct that occurred while the student was enrolled, given that the violation(s) would have resulted in expulsion.
- Additional Sanctions – In addition to those listed above, other sanction may be implemented.”

Alcohol education is required for students that violate the University Policy on Alcohol. Students who fail to complete the education will have a hold placed on their account until completion. Examples of the alcohol education include but are not limited to an alcohol education course, drug and alcohol seminars and virtual seminars, research on a specific alcohol topic, educational modules, etc.

University Police Department Enforcement

The Arkansas State University Police Department is located on campus and is authorized to have 22 sworn officers that provide around-the-clock law enforcement. The sworn officers focus on protection of persons and property and enforcement of local, state, and university regulations. They patrol the campus and surrounding streets and enforce all state underage drinking laws and all federal and state drug laws. They publish the Annual Security Report and Fire Safety Report and provide daily crime logs and crime statistics.

Statistics

Crime statistics related to alcohol and drugs can be reviewed in the Clery Annual Security and Safety Report at: <https://www.astate.edu/a/police/crime-stats/>

Programs and Activities Available on Campus to Raise Awareness of Safety and Risk Reduction

Throughout the year, on a continuous basis, programs and activities are held at A-State to educate and raise awareness of safety issues, including alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual harassment and sexual abuse. The list below is not all inclusive, but gives some of the programs and activities at A-State.

Campus Walk Through

A regular walk through of campus with all necessary constituents (UPD, Facilities, Students, etc.) is conducted to identify if there are areas of campus that need additional lighting or other safety measures.

Prevention and Programming

Arkansas State University provides alcohol and other drug programming annually. Programming by the University Police Department (UPD) includes:

- UPD provides programming to the campus community and to classes and organizations upon request on alcohol awareness and safety. Examples of such programming are Drunk Driving Simulations, Self-Defense, Active Shooter Safety Responses, among others. Furthermore, UPD provides information to the Office of Student Conduct for presentations, seminars, and virtual seminars provided to students as educational tasks/sanctions for alcohol and drug related non-academic student misconduct policy violations.

Programming by the Counseling Center includes:

- Alcohol Awareness Week—this annual event includes multiple events and passive programming that reaches out to students to make them aware of the dangers of alcohol abuse and educate on responsible use of alcohol. Events have included: Drunk Driving Simulations, Speakers, parties, mock tails and other educational programming.
- Golf Cart Driving—the counseling center teams up with UPD to provide this real life drunk driving activity. Using a golf cart and beer goggles, student experience what it is like to drive while intoxicated in a safe environment.
- Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil—this program speaks to students about domestic abuse and commemorates Arkansas citizens who have lost their lives to domestic violence during the previous year.
- Sexual Assault Awareness – Ongoing programming for the campus community that includes teal ribbon giveaways, tests your knowledge activities, programs on “Textual Harassment” and pledge cards.
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Week – A week that includes educational programming for the campus community including promotional and safety materials, a candlelight vigil, and presentations provided by community resource representatives.
- Alcohol Awareness Social Norming – An educational presentation on “normal” alcohol use given in first year classes.
- Suicide Prevention/Awareness Week- An annual event promoting suicide prevention, identifying symptoms and indications of suicidal ideation, steps for intervention, and highlighting campus and local resources available to assist.

Intervention and Support Services

The Arkansas State University Counseling Center provides counseling to students who may be using alcohol or drugs. The Counseling Center provides referrals to alcohol and drug rehabilitation and treatment facilities such as Northeast Arkansas Regional Recovery Center and Wilbur D. Mills Treatment Center.

Promotion within the Residence Halls include:

- Security Awareness Programming is completed at the beginning of each semester when Resident Assistants/Community Assistants host hall meetings to educate residents. Additionally, the residence hall staff send emails to residents reminding them of the importance of locking their room doors and not propping exterior entrance doors to
- Security Awareness Programming is completed at the beginning of each semester when Resident Assistants host hall meetings to educate residents
- Each semester residents are exposed to campus safety information. Information and programs include importance of locking doors, engraving personal property, reporting suspicious behavior, theft prevention, self-defense, tips to avoid sexual misconduct/harassment, and alcohol awareness. An emphasis will be placed on advocating safety and security throughout the academic year through self-defense, alcohol and drug prevention, and sexual assault prevention programs

- Assault prevention programs are presented to residence halls and other on-campus resident students including fraternities and sororities each semester. Residence Education Coordinators receive training in assault prevention. Informational brochures regarding sexual assault are available
- Alcohol Abuse and Drug prevention programs are presented in the residence halls and other on-campus resident students including fraternities and sororities each semester. Resident Assistants and Residence Education Coordinators receive programming training and are networked with offices and staff members that can assist in this training

Program Strengths

- Campus departments are working together to provide prevention programming.
- The campus is consistently enforcing policies.
- Regular meetings are occurring within the Student Affairs division to discuss programming.
- An alcohol and drug education seminar, virtual seminar and educational modules were developed and utilized in order to educate students.

Program Weaknesses

- Now that specific alcohol and drug education seminars, educational tasks and modules are established, expanding the utilization of these will benefit students. Assessing the effectiveness of these through student feedback can help refine these offerings to prove more beneficial in this effort.

Program Recommendations

- Improve existing programming and resources for students who violate the drug or alcohol policy in collaboration with the University Police Department and the Wilson Counseling Center.

Summary

This report provides evidence that the institution has a comprehensive drug and alcohol abuse prevention program in place. Being in compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and fulfilling the requirements is a priority for the institution. Alcohol and drug prevention is a continuous process and important due to the relationship that it has to academic performance, retention, and potential lost revenue. Our program strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations have been identified. Over the next two years, the institution shall work to achieve new goals and improve the overall drug and alcohol abuse prevention program.