



2019 BIENNIAL REVIEW
OF THE SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY
DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAM AND POLICIES
JUNE 2016 – JUNE 2018

By

Southern Arkansas University Drug Strategy Control Committee

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Introduction to Biennial Review

Federal Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations require institutions of higher education to conduct a biennial review of their alcohol and other drugs programs and policies to determine program effectiveness and consistency of policy enforcement and to identify and implement any changes needed to either. The required review has two objectives:

1. To determine the effectiveness of, and to implement any needed changes to, Southern Arkansas University's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program.
2. To ensure that Southern Arkansas University enforces the disciplinary sanctions for violating standards of conduct consistently.

Southern Arkansas University will perform a review every two years. Each report will review the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program's effectiveness for the previous two academic years.

Research Methods and Data Analysis Tools for Biennial Review

Southern Arkansas University will use a variety of methods and tools to conduct the biennial review of its Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program. Each institution of higher education faces its own unique set of challenges in regards to the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse. The details of each institution's review can and should adjust to strategically address the specific alcohol and other drug issues faced by their students.

The various methods and tools used for the biennial review can include but are not limited to the following:

- Campus surveys including students and employees
- Interviews with students and employees
- Residential Life Office records regarding incidents that reported the use or abuse of alcohol and other drugs including sanctions and disciplinary action taken
- Security and Safety Office records regarding incidents that reported the use or abuse of alcohol and other drugs including any available information from local law enforcement
- Human Resources Office records regarding incidents that reported the use or abuse of alcohol and other drugs including sanctions and disciplinary action taken
- Evaluation of programs used to assist with the prevention of drug and alcohol use and abuse that were administered during the academic years being evaluated by the biennial review
- Other Universities' Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Programs

Southern Arkansas University Drug Strategy Control Committee

Student Life – Carey Baker, Dean of Students

University Health Services – Amanda Hanson, Director

Counseling Center – Cheryl Goodheart, Director

University Police – Jeff Jester, Chief

State of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

On July 23, 2019, the Drug Strategy Control Committee of the Biennial Review for the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act reviewed (1) the effectiveness and implementation of changes, if needed, within the program and (2) to ensure that the disciplinary sanctions described in our policy are consistently enforced. The committee members were the following: Carey Baker (Chairman, Dean of Students), Amanda Hanson (Health Services), Cheryl Goodheart (Counseling Center) and Chief Jeff Jester (University Police).

Distribution and Notification of Annual Drug and Alcohol Abuse Awareness Program to Students and Employees

It is the opinion of the committee that SAU is in compliance with all parts of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. The committee believed the method of distribution of the Written Policy to all enrolled students for the upcoming fall semester was most effective by US mail. Each July the Office of Student Life emails the policy to all students who will be attending in the fall semester by. Any new enrollees for the fall and spring semesters will be provided a copy during their registration process. Current employees receive the policy in one of their monthly check stub envelopes. New employees are given a copy during their orientation with the personnel office.

The Written Policy will be updated with any necessary changes to applicable legal sanctions under federal, state or local laws for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol. The Committee also agreed to eliminate the drinking categories currently listed under the alcohol section of the policy.

Enforcement and Consistency of Disciplinary Sanctions

Southern Arkansas University is a drug and alcohol free campus. The University seeks to abide by all drug and alcohol related policies, regulations and laws, and to impose consistent disciplinary sanctions against those students and/or employees who violate said policies and laws consistent with local, State or Federal law. In reviewing each offense listed below, there were no irregularities or inconsistencies found in the disciplinary action taken. SAU will continue to strive for each individual offense to be handled fairly, consistently and in accordance with

policies and regulations. Should a student feel that disciplinary action taken or not taken was unfair or inconsistent with any drug or alcohol use or abuse policy, he/she should contact the Dean of Students. Should an employee feel that disciplinary action taken or not taken was unfair or inconsistent with any drug or alcohol use or abuse policy, he/she should contact the Human Resources Office. All such concerns will be taken seriously.

From 2016/17-2017/18 the Office of Student Life reported 73 students violating the alcohol policy. 3 public intoxication and 70 possession of alcohol on campus. Of those alcohol violations students were given multiple sanctions as follows:

73 students placed on probation for one year
73 student placed in the Under the Influence* online program (44 Students completed the course, 29 did not return to school prior to completion of the course)

*Under the Influence (through 3rd Millennium Classrooms) is a 3 hour online alcohol education course, which asks students to examine their decisions relating to alcohol use and how it affects their health, safety, and student status. Students can save their progress to return to their place in the course if necessary. Students then receive an email within 30 days to complete a 15 minute follow-up to this course which is required to be completed even if it occurs after the deadline for the sanction.

The Office of Student Life reported 32 drug violations by students. 2 found in residence hall room, 5 under the influence and 25 found on the person/vehicle. Their sanctions were as follows with some students receiving multiple sanctions:

-29 students placed on probation for one year
-29 student placed in the Marijuana 101* online program (18 Students completed the course, 14 did not return to school prior to the completion of the course)
-3 students were suspended for 1 a minimum of semester for intent to deliver

*Marijuana 101 is a 4 hour online drug education course, which asks students to examine their substance use and how it affects their health, safety, and student status. Students can save their progress to return to their place in the course if necessary. Students then receive an email within 30 days to complete a 15 minute follow-up to this course which is required to be completed even if it occurs after the deadline for the sanction.

The University Police Department reported for this same period 76 alcohol violations. There were 3 drug arrests and 32 drug referrals with none being off campus. There were 3 alcohol arrests and 73 alcohol referrals.

The Office of Counseling and Testing reported 7 incidences in which they counseled with a student resulting from their drug use and alcohol use.

There were no reported incidences of drug and/or alcohol offenses for this period by Human Resources.

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team (ADAPT) will continue to direct attention towards Red Ribbon Week, alcohol poisoning, drunk driving soberfest and classroom presentations. Since the two-year period included in this report, the Southern Arkansas University Student Government Association (SGA) has sponsored awareness activities in conjunction with Opioid Awareness Week.

Contact Information for Additional Questions

Students, parents, employees or any other interested party that would like additional information regarding SAGU's efforts to maintain a drug and alcohol free campus should contact the Office of Student Life at (870) 235-4041.