

The Drug Free Schools and Campuses Act

Institutions of Higher Education (IHE), as a condition of receiving federal financial assistance, must provide the following to each student and employee:

- A description of health risks associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs;
- A description of any drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation programs available to students and employees;
- Standards of conduct that clearly prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs by students and employees on school property or as part of any school activities;
- A description of the applicable legal sanctions under local, state or federal law for the unlawful possession, use or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs.
- A clear statement that the school will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees who violate the standards of conduct and a description of the sanctions, up to and including expulsion, termination of employment and referral to law enforcement.

IHEs are also required to prepare a written review of their program every two years to determine its effectiveness and implement any needed changes and to ensure that the schools sanctions are consistently being enforced.⁴²



College and University Strategies To Positively Influence Campus Alcohol Use

“While college students may know intellectually that drinking and driving is not a smart thing to do, their common sense can be overwhelmed by the powerful process of the social drinking ritual. For such students, drinking is primary. How to get home is an afterthought ... Another challenge to reducing alcohol impaired driving by college students is that many of them have driven while impaired without incident many times. This fact can sustain a driver’s belief in his or her ability to avoid a crash after drinking, even when the person is beyond the point of legal impairment.”⁴³

Many colleges are implementing comprehensive prevention approaches that combine traditional education programs with strategies to change the physical, social, legal, and economic environments on campuses and surrounding communities. These strategies aim to modify the personal, peer, institutional, community, and public policy/enforcement levels of influence on a student’s behavior. Multi-level interventions are more effective. Single institutions or regional groups of institutions are bringing together faculty, administrators, staff, students, parents, alumni, law enforcement and local community members to develop and implement strong effective policies and programs.⁴³

The goals of campus efforts are to:

- Decrease the availability of alcohol.
- Increase the number and variety of alcohol-free social activities for students.
- Create a climate that discourages high-risk drinking.

Examples of Strategies⁴⁴:

- Forming partnerships with local communities to ensure alcohol is not served to minors or intoxicated students;
- Strengthening academic requirements;
- Scheduling classes on Fridays to emphasize the importance of academics and discourages the alcohol fueled partying that may occur on Thursday nights;
- Keeping library and recreational facilities open longer;
- Eliminating alcohol industry support for athletics programs to avoid sending mixed message to students.
- Restricting alcohol promotions and advertising on campus and in campus publications, especially promotions or ads that feature low-cost drinks;
- Monitoring fraternities to ensure compliance with alcohol policies and laws;
- Providing a wide range of alcohol-free social and recreational activities;
- Disciplining repeat offenders and those who engage in unacceptable behavior associated with substance use;
- Notifying parents when students engage in serious or repeated violations of alcohol or other drug policies or laws; and
- Launching a media campaign to inform students about the actual amount of drinking that occurs on campus, since most students overestimate the number of their classmates who drink and the amount that they drink.