



**WCU Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Biennial Review Report  
Fall 2019**

## 1. Purpose

This report on Western Carolina University's Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) policies, programs and services is prepared in compliance with the US Department of Education Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, UNC Policy on Illegal Drugs (1300.1) and Western Carolina University Policy #38 Illegal Drugs and Illegal Use or Abuse of Alcohol.

## 2. WCU Policies on the Use and Abuse of AOD

<https://www.wcu.edu/discover/leadership/office-of-the-chancellor/legal-counsel-office/university-policies/numerical-index/university-policy-38.aspx>

Western Carolina University Code of Student Conduct:

<https://www.wcu.edu/WebFiles/PDFs/CodeOfStudentConduct.pdf>

University Policy #78, Disciplinary Policy and Procedures for SHRA Employees:

<https://www.wcu.edu/discover/leadership/office-of-the-chancellor/legal-counsel-office/university-policies/numerical-index/university-policy-78.aspx>

University Policy #81: WCU General Campus Policy for Alcoholic Beverages

<https://www.wcu.edu/discover/leadership/office-of-the-chancellor/legal-counsel-office/university-policies/numerical-index/university-policy-81.aspx>

University Policy #102: University Center BYOB Policy – \*Repealed in 2014

<https://www.wcu.edu/discover/leadership/office-of-the-chancellor/legal-counsel-office/university-policies/numerical-index/university-policy-102.aspx>

University Policy #103: Tailgating Policy

<https://www.wcu.edu/discover/leadership/office-of-the-chancellor/legal-counsel-office/university-policies/numerical-index/university-policy-103.aspx>

University Policy #107: Employee Assistance Program

<https://www.wcu.edu/discover/leadership/office-of-the-chancellor/legal-counsel-office/university-policies/numerical-index/university-policy-107.aspx>

Policy #81 was reviewed by the AOD Committee and suggestions for revision were submitted in 2016

Policy #38 was reviewed by the Assistant Director for Health and Wellness Education, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health and Wellness, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources and suggestions for revision were submitted in 2018

## 3. Programs Addressing AOD Use and Abuse

The AOD education efforts at Western Carolina University are designed to benefit the entire academic community through comprehensive programming. Programming is developed and implemented in order to proactively and reactively educate students on a population level, high-risk group level, and individual level.

The Assistant Director for Health and Wellness Education is a fulltime professional staff member in the Division of Student Affairs and provides leadership on AOD programming. The Assistant Director chairs an AOD Committee which meets periodically and reviews campus-wide AOD initiatives and programming, as well as contributes to the statistics and information for the Drug And Alcohol Prevention (DAAPP) and Biennial Reports. The AOD Committee's membership includes representation from the following departments: Department of Student Community Ethics, Counseling and Psychological Services, Human Resources, Health Services Intercultural Affairs, Campus Recreation and Wellness, Greek Life, Residential Living, University Police, and Athletics, as well as WCU students.

Educational resources are also made available to faculty and staff through Human Resources. These members of the university community are given information and resources during their new employee orientation and supervisors are trained regarding the requirements of the University Illegal Drug policy.

Educational and prevention programming were maintained this year, including the following highlights:

- **Alcohol Awareness Week:** Held in October of each year continues to have consistent participation each year. Generally this week-long event hosts 4-5 events.
- **Safe Spring Break:** In Spring 2019, Safe Spring Break programming focused on holistic spring break safety including: alcohol safety, health education, sun/activity safety, and alcohol, other drug, and conduct education.
- **Residential Living Programming Initiatives:** Each year there was programming in the residence halls. In 2018-2019 there were 20 Residential Living programs related to alcohol and/or drugs in the residence halls, not including the passive programs (RA bulletin boards).
- **Student Athletes:** Athletics require every freshman athlete attend one event during Alcohol Awareness Week.
- **Q&A Wednesdays:** This program is a collaboration between DSCE and Health and Wellness Education. The goal of this program is to educate students on their rights and responsibilities, the WCU Community Creed and the WCU Student Code of Conduct, and educate them on how to make healthy choices—inclusive choices regarding alcohol and other drugs.
- **Drug Risk Awareness Program:** This program identifies commonly abused drugs and the risk factors involved. Western Carolina University Police Officers also provide discussion about the criminal process and legal ramifications for an individual both on and off campus. Confiscated drug paraphernalia is available for attendees to view. In 2018, there were 9 drug risk awareness programs in various residence halls and classroom building across campus.
- **Alcohol Risk Awareness Program:** This program reviews the dangers of alcohol consumption and abuse. Officers will provide discussion about the criminal process and legal ramifications for an individual both on and off campus. The use of beer and marijuana goggles is available for this program. In 2018, there were 25 Alcohol Risk Awareness Programs in various residence halls and classroom buildings across campus.

- **AlcoholEDU and Haven New Student Training:** All new incoming freshman, transfer, and graduate students, whether they enter in the Fall or the Spring are highly encouraged to participate in the AlcoholEDU and Haven online courses.
- The DSCE offers presentations to approximately 25 freshmen transition courses each year. As a portion of the presentation, DSCE presenters cover basic alcohol and drug information in relation to the WCU Community Creed and the WCU Code of Student Conduct.
- **Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA):** This is a student led organization that educates students on alcohol safety. The Director of Greek Life is responsible for the oversight of this group.

#### 4. Summary Statistics on Code of Student Conduct Alcohol Violations

##### AOD Code of Student Conduct Violations

DSCE oversees the Code of Student Conduct and adjudicates alleged violations of AOD policies. Table 1 shows the reported alcohol and drug-related violations over the last 6 years.

\*Table 1: AOD Code of Student Conduct Violations 2013-14 through 2016-19 (report is based on data collected during date range 08/01/2013 – 07/31/2019)

Year	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Alcohol Related Code Violations	526	355	230	267	357	403
% Change	+18%	-33%	-35.2%	+16.1%	+33.7%	+12.9%
Drug Related Code Violations	197	229	143	118	261	180
% Change	+3%	+16%	-38%	-17.4%	+121.2%	-31%

Variations in the reported AOD violations have a number of causal and correlated factors; including, trends in overall student enrollment as well as changes to policies, procedures, and intervention strategies.

##### AOD Code of Student Conduct Sanctions

Any student found responsible for violating the WCU Code of Student Conduct may be subject to one or more recommended minimum sanctions. While each student’s alleged violation is processed on a case-by-case basis, recommended sanctions are maintained to ensure that students found responsible for alcohol or drug violations are treated in a consistent manner.

The recommended sanctions are reviewed annually and serve as guidelines for hearing officers. Over the last three years, no significant changes were made to the AOD minimum sanctions. A typical first offense AOD sanction includes probation, an assignment to complete an educational program (i.e., AlcoholEDU for Sanctions/Marijuana 101), a charge to pay for the educational program, and parental notification. Table 2 shows the AOD educational assignment sanctions from the last 4 years.

Table 2: AOD Educational Assignment Sanctions for 2013-14 through 2018-19

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Enrolled in Under the Influence/Sanctioned Alcohol Edu	224	183	103	82	86	54
Completed Under the Influence/Sanctioned Alcohol Edu	212	164	87	69	53	35
Enrolled in Marijuana 101	60	73	75	48	75	49
Completed Marijuana 101	56	71	61	46	48	34

The percentage of students completing the AOD educational assignment sanctions reflects improvements in follow-up and staffing changes in DSCE. DSCE can convert the case to a Dean’s Action if students do not complete sanctions by the assigned due date.

## 5. AOD Resources

### Department of Student Community Ethics

[www.dsce.wcu.edu](http://www.dsce.wcu.edu)

The Department of Student Community Ethics (DSCE) administers the student conduct process for Western Carolina and works to support an honest and responsible community. Under the process, students are held accountable for adhering to established community standards as laid out in the Student Handbook, Community Creed, and Western Carolina’s Code of Student Conduct.

DSCE also provides the university community with educational programming on AOD issues and supervises educational sanctioning for students found responsible of violating WCU’s AOD policies.

### Health and Wellness Education

[dsa.wcu.edu/healthwellness](http://dsa.wcu.edu/healthwellness)

The mission of the Assistant Director for Health and Wellness Education for Alcohol and Other Drug Education is to promote healthy choices emphasizing the elimination of high-risk behavior, illegal alcohol and drug use, harmful substance use and related issues in order to empower and retain successful, healthy and involved students.

The Assistant Director also utilizes a blog to upload weekly content on how to create and maintain a healthy lifestyle. It can be found at [dsa.wcu.edu/healthandwellnessblog](http://dsa.wcu.edu/healthandwellnessblog).

Catamount Wellness Ambassadors are peer health educators who serve as liaisons between Health and Wellness Education and WCU students to promote health and wellbeing on campus. Wellness Ambassadors deepen their understanding of health and wellness topics while gaining important leadership skills such as public speaking and program planning.

WCU has a new online well being portal that launched in the Fall of 2019. YOU@WCU is designed to help students Succeed, Thrive, and Matter by managing stress, setting goals,

promoting happiness and well-being, and connecting to campus resources. Visit YOU by going to [you.wcu.edu](http://you.wcu.edu).

### **Counseling and Psychological Services**

[www.caps.wcu.edu](http://www.caps.wcu.edu)

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers, at no cost, short-term and goal directed counseling services for students, including services for students who have substance use problems. Additionally, CAPS offers consultations to parents, staff and faculty who are concerned about a student. CAPS staff includes two licensed clinical addictions specialists.

CAPS can assist students in locating additional substance use treatment if they need longer term or more intensive treatment.

Students are eligible for services while they are enrolled in the semester they want to receive counseling services. A student is eligible for services throughout the summer as long as he/she/they have continuous enrollment from Spring to Fall.

CAPS is accredited by The International Accreditation of Counseling Services (IACS).

### **Division of Student Affairs**

[dsa.wcu.edu](http://dsa.wcu.edu)

### **Health and Wellness Unit**

<https://www.wcu.edu/experience/health-and-wellness/index.aspx>

### **WCU Human Resources Employee Relations**

WCU's Human Resources Department includes an Employee Relations unit which helps employees by providing advice and consultation in matters relating to personnel policies and procedures. Employee Relations staff also assist employees with personal issues by providing employee assistance benefits.

In addition, WCU Human Resources partners with ComPsych's GuidanceResources®. ComPsych is a University-sponsored program that provides employees and their dependents with confidential support, resources and information for personal and work-life issues. These services are provided at no charge and will include an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with access to confidential short-term counseling services. Support is provided for concerns such as marital, relationship and family problems; stress, anxiety and depression; grief and loss, job pressures and substance abuse.

ComPsych's GuidanceResources®  
<http://www.guidanceresources.com>

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