

# Oberlin College Biennial Review

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AN OVERVIEW OF DRUG FREE SCHOOLS & CAMPUSES ACT  
REGULATIONS

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### Introduction

On August 16, 1990, the Department of Education published final regulations that implemented the Amendments to the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act of 1989. This Act requires that all higher education institutions receiving federal funds affirm to the Department of Education that they have adopted and implemented a program to prevent the illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees. Minimally, such a program must annually distribute the following to each student and employee of an institution.

Standard of conduct that clearly prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use or distribution of drugs and alcohol by students and employees on an institution's property or as any

part of an institution's activities.

- A description of the applicable legal sanctions under Local, State, and Federal law for unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol.
- A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.
- A description of drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation programs that are available to students and employees.
- A clear statement that an institution will impose sanctions on students and employees (consistent with Local, State and Federal law) and a description of these sanctions up to and including suspension, expulsion and/or termination of employment, and referral; for prosecution for violating the standards of conduct.

This Act also requires that an institution of higher education conduct a biennial review of its program to provide:

- Descriptions of the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) prevention program contents
- A statement of the AOD program goals and a discussion of goal achievement
- Summaries of the AOD program strengths and weaknesses
- Procedures for distributing AOD policy to students and employees
- Copies of the policies distributed to students and employees.
- Recommendations for revising the AOD program.

This report is Oberlin College's documentation of compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act for the Period covering 2021-2023. After reviewing policies and procedures, Oberlin College confirms that it has satisfied the requirements for the Drug Free Schools and Campuses Act as stated in number 1-6 above as outlined in this report. This report covers the period from September 1, 2021 to July 1, 2023, and includes information collected by the Office of the Dean of Students. It will be on file in the Dean of Students Office and available to any interested party upon request.

### **Review of the Alcohol and other Drug Prevention Program**

This report will cover the six areas, as listed on pages 4-16, which are required elements of the Biennial Review

#### **Section 1: Description of ATOD program elements**

The U.S Department of Education's regulations (EDGAR Part 86.100 (b)) do not dictate what a biennial review should include, how it should be conducted, or the format in which it should be presented. What follows are descriptions of the various components of the Alcohol and other Drugs prevention program at Oberlin College based upon standard practice in higher education

prevention fields. These components have been grouped into six categories based upon a comprehensive model of a program review: environmental strategies, educational strategies, policy/enforcement strategies, early intervention strategies, assessment and campus-community coalitions.

### **A. Environmental Strategies**

The environmental strategies profiled in this section include Residential Living options and extracurricular/recreational options.

#### **- Residential Living Options**

The Substance Free Residence Hall: The Substance Free residence is a housing option available to all students who desire to live in an alcohol, illicit drugs, and tobacco free residence hall or floor section. There are 33 spaces dedicated to this living option and requests to live in this hall often exceed the number of spots available.

Quiet Hall: The quiet hall is open to all students. This living option is available for students who want to live and study in a peaceful environment. Residents of the quiet hall are asked to be respectful of common living spaces and to keep noise to a minimum. Approximately 30 spaces are dedicated to this option.

For Residential Living options that are not substance-free or designated as a quiet hall, Residential Education actively prohibits underage alcohol use and well as behavior that culminates in heavy consumption. Residential Education staff members that live in the residence regularly conduct rounds of the living quarters during every evening as well as health and safety checks in order to reduce these underage and heavy use. Oberlin believes that Residential Education serves a critical role in the college experience. Thus, over 90% of the student body resides in Oberlin College housing.

#### **• Extracurricular/Recreational Options**

One of the strengths of Oberlin's student body is the interest and ability to create a wide variety of social programming throughout the academic year, most of which is substance-free. Students collaborate with various offices to produce many events; most of which the students create on their own. During the 2022-2023 academic year, there were over 1000 events scheduled in the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement, the majority of which were substance free. These included speakers, concerts, receptions, and religious services. Oberlin also offers a Yeofit & Recreation program which offers Bowling, Intramural Leagues, and Outdoor Recreation trips, all of which are alcohol-free. This number does not include all the events scheduled at the Conservatory of Music or through academic departments. A complete schedule of events for the Oberlin College community can be found at <https://www.oberlin.edu/events>.

- **The Cat in the Cream**

The Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse hosted 132 alcohol-free programs during the 2022-2023 academic year. These events included concerts, jazz recitals, student plays, open microphone nights, and poetry readings. There are approximately 175 active student organizations on campus.

- **The Dionysus Disco ('Sco)**

The Dionysus Disco ('Sco) is a bar located in Wilder Hall. The decision to have a bar on-campus enabled Oberlin College to better address health, wellness, and safety among students. Though seemingly counterproductive, having a college operated bar/club for students reduces alcohol-related concerns created by a private, independently operated bar adjacent to campus. A local private entity may prioritize profit over patron welfare, which can culminate in laissez faire policies that enable overconsumption and underage drinking. Furthermore, in a rural area lack of local drinking establishment may lead students to drive towards the Cleveland area, increasing the chances of drunk driving when they return to campus. With the 'Sco being run by the College, servers are trained to prevent overconsumption and underage drinking. They also reduce the chances of over intoxication by not serving distilled spirits.

Furthermore, more than 96 programs were held in the Dionysus Disco ('Sco) in Wilder Student Union during the 2022-2023 academic year. Food and non-alcoholic beverages are offered at all events in the Sco. Alcohol service is limited to students aged 21 and older. In the past few years, efforts have been made to broaden a selection of non-alcoholic beverages and train 'Sco workers about legal and monitoring issues in relation to serving alcohol using TIPS training. In addition, there is an annual alcohol awareness night held in the 'Sco, sponsored by our Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards and Student Athletic Advisory Committee.

- **The Oberlin College Recreation Center (a.k.a Phillips PE Center)**

The Oberlin College Recreation Center (Phillips and Shanks) offers several program including: general recreational opportunities for 14 hours each weekday, nine hours on Saturdays and five hours on Sunday; credit-bearing physical education activity classes; and special 1 day events. Oberlin has 19 varsity intercollegiate sports teams and 16 student-run club sports (competitive and recreational) from which to choose. EXCO classes often provide yet another outlet for learning a new sport or physical activity.

## **B. Educational Strategies**

The educational strategies profiled in this section include awareness and information training, educational outreach, peer education, and academic courses.

- Awareness and Information Training
  - E-Check Up To Go Alcohol is available to Oberlin College students through the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. It helps students make informed choices about their health and use of substances. This electronic educational program is a brief assessment tool designed to provide individual feedback on alcohol use patterns. It is available to all students but required for certain students as a sanction of the Student Conduct process.
  - Oberlin partners with Vector Solutions to provide an alcohol and hazing prevention training as a pre-matriculation course for incoming freshman. This course is required for all students.

### C. Policy & Enforcement strategies

The Dean of Students Office regularly work to clarify the ATOD enforcement roles for student and professional staff. All members are required to confront and document ATOD policy violations and forward reports to professional staff members for appropriate student conduct follow up. The underage use of alcohol and the use of illicit drugs is clearly outlined as a violation of Student Regulations, Policies, and Procedures. It is made clear to incoming students that they are expected to abide by this policy when they enroll at Oberlin College. An electronic version of these policies can be found at <https://www.oberlin.edu/dean-of-students/student-conduct/resources>.

The data below reflects consistent enforcement of ATOD policies. The reflected incidents excludes tobacco use. Regular surveillance of these policy violations also enables Oberlin to implement prevention efforts that are relevant to the substance use observed on-campus.

<b>Policy Violation</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
<b>Alcohol – Underage Possession/Use</b>	19	14
<b>Drug – Possession/Use</b>	12	21
<b>Intoxication</b>	10	6

- **Residence Life**

There are some additional policies that apply to students that live in Oberlin College Residence Halls. This series of policies is titled “Housing and Dining Regulations” and can be found electronically at <https://www.oberlin.edu/housing/policies-accommodations>.

Enforcing these policies is a task for the residence hall student staff members that are often the first responders to problems affecting approximately 2600 students living in residence halls, apartments and program houses. They are appropriately trained and expected to report negative or inappropriate conduct and behavior through a reporting structure reviewed by members of the Office of Residence Life staff. These reports will be acted upon if the situation warrants attention by the central staff or consultation with others.

- **Medical Amnesty Policy**

General Faculty approved a Medical Amnesty Policy to address one of the downsides of strict enforcement of underage alcohol and illicit drug prevention policies. ATOD abstinence policies have the potential to increase the risk of negative substance abuse-related outcomes if student fear of sanctions makes them reluctant to seek help from Oberlin staff. In order to increase the likelihood of reporting in when students are seeking help for illicit drug use/dependence, as well as a medical or safety risk as a result of unlawful alcohol or drug abuse, the amnesty policy assures students that they will not be formally sanctioned as a result of reporting the emergency to the appropriate Oberlin staff members. The policy written in full can be found at <https://www.oberlin.edu/dean-of-students/student-conduct/student-rights>.

#### **D. Early Intervention strategies**

The early intervention strategies profiled in this section include efforts out of various departments in the Division of Student Affairs and Human Resources. Specific services from these respective areas are outlined below.

- Division of Student Affairs
  - a. Student Support and Outreach
    - i. Student Support and Outreach promotes student success by providing a forum for faculty, staff, students, and others to share concerns, supporting a collaborative approach, and providing opportunities for meaningful interactions. Students can connect with Student Support and Outreach by [scheduling an appointment](#) or calling the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) at 440-775-8462, any time during business hours. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The online [Student Support Request form](#) also is available to students, faculty, staff, and others who wish to refer a student who may be struggling emotionally needs

additional support or is exhibiting other concerning behavior. You can fill out this form anonymously as it does not violate the privacy rights of students. Students may discuss alcohol dependency in this program.

b. Counseling & Psychological Services

- i. The Oberlin College [Counseling & Psychological Services](#) provides counseling and support for students concerned about their alcohol and drug use. Students in need of a court-ordered assessment or treatment for dependency will be referred to alcohol and drug services certified by the state, located in Elyria, or to an agency near a student's hometown.

There are local alcoholics anonymous (AA), narcotics anonymous (NA), and al-anon meetings. A detailed schedule can be found on the Counseling Center webpage.

c. Student Conduct

- i. Violations of Oberlin College alcohol and/or drug policy primarily discovered by staff within Residence Life and Campus Safety are referred to the Director of Student Conduct & Community Standards. These violations culminate in completion of alcohol and/or drug education classes as part of the sanction. Oberlin utilizes "E-CHECKUP TO GO" as the ATOD awareness class for policy violations. Research has shown that it is effective, proven, unique and recognized by NASPA as an effective online prevention program. Oberlin has a very low rate of recidivism with alcohol charges, with less than 2% of 1<sup>st</sup> time policy offenders having a repeat alcohol violation.

- Human Resources

- a. Employee Drug/Alcohol Testing/Pre-Employment Testing

- i. In its commitment to the Drug-Free Workplace Policy, Oberlin College, Oberlin College Security Association (OCSA), United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Oberlin College Office and Professional Employees (OCOPE) and the United Auto Workers' (UAW) unions have established clear guidelines for acceptable and unacceptable employee behavior in the area of substance use. In addition, Oberlin College also provides support and assistance for those covered employees who come forward with a substance problem. The program consists of a written policy, substance awareness education, training for management/supervisors, drug and alcohol testing, and employee assistance. Drug and alcohol testing occurs

pre-employment and when there is reasonable cause for testing. The OCSA employees program includes random monthly testing.

b. Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

- i. The College's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available 24 hours a day to provide free counseling and support services to all faculty and staff and everyone in their household. Services range from behavioral counseling to health and wellness resources, including daily living resources. Specific services include how to reduce stress, how to overcome an addiction, and fighting balance.

## **Section 2: Statement of AOD program goals and discussion of goal achievement**

Many different offices are responsible for implementing a variety of activities that ultimately contribute to ATOD prevention as well as defining goals and objectives. All should be considered valuable parts of an effective prevention program. Survey data is collected regularly and is used to inform the campus community about alcohol and other drug issues and the success of preventive measures.

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards has the responsibility of reviewing the Biennial Review. This office also sits on the wellness committee, with implements the JED program.

The student conduct program continues to set regular training goals for hearing boards and also has an overarching goal to improve the student conduct program in general (working closely with Residential Education). In addition, the hearing officers work closely with the College Counsel and Review Team.

## **Section 3: Procedures for distributing ATOD policy to students and employees**

All students receive an email during the first week of classes with links to all relevant policies, as well as a summary of all impactful changes to policies. Incoming students also receive the policies as part of their alcohol awareness pre-matriculation training.

All policies that pertain to students and employees are always accessible online through the Oberlin College website at [www.oberlin.edu](http://www.oberlin.edu). Students can find the rules and regulations and information about codes of academic and non-academic conduct, including ATOD policies, on the college website. The Human Resources office maintains an extensive site on policies, procedures, benefits and resources for employees, including the ATOD policy.

## **Section 4: Recommendations for revising ATOD programs**

Effectively addressing alcohol and other drug issues on a college campus is a complex and ongoing task, which requires investment from all corners of the college in order to create lasting cultural change. Each year, the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, in consultation with the wellness committee, revisits the policy and recommends campus wide education and prevention programs. These efforts must be planned strategically, based on current data and science-based methodologies, and implemented with strong support from the highest levels of the college structure.

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