

2018-19
Southeast Arkansas Drug and Alcohol Program
Biennial Review

Executive Summary

Southeast Arkansas College is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy campus community through education, information, and intervention concerning alcohol and other drugs. Among other efforts in support of this commitment, the college conducts a biennial review of the effectiveness of its drug and alcohol prevention programs, and the consistency of disciplinary sanctions imposed for violations of standards of conduct pertaining to possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on University property or as part of its programs. This review is required by the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) of 1989 – also known as the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act – and U.S. Department of Education regulations. Consistent with these requirements, this report explains our review findings and recommendations for continuous improvement.

SEARK has a number of programs aimed at educating students on the dangers of alcohol and other drugs. These programs are offered throughout campus through the offices of Advising and Student Retention, Recruitment (Campus Orientation), Campus Safety and can also be found in curriculum in courses throughout the college. Through these programs, SEARK seeks to prevent the unlawful possession, use and distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees.

A data review on arrests and violations show that alcohol and drug related violations are at zero for the previous two years. While such data is positive the review team also suggest that they may be alarming as they may suggest a need for greater efforts to monitor and engage student who are in need. In addition, the college is planning to have campus housing in the coming years and will need the necessary infrastructure to address issues when students are living on campus.

An audit was conducted reviewing campus policies specific to drug and alcohol violations as stated in the College Catalog/Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for processes to address violations and proper referral for students in need. A similar audit was conducted of the faculty and staff handbook.

Looking to the future specific actions identified for improvement included

1. Improve the process for notifying students and employees about information related to alcohol and other drugs,
2. Create a centralized compliance process that helps monitor the effectiveness of drug and alcohol prevention programs and ensures compliance,
3. Development of a student survey instrument to allow for annual monitoring of drug and alcohol by students.
4. Create an advisory committee for alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse prevention programs.

Steps in Review Process

As part of both the biennial review process and college accreditation process the following actions were conducted to review and check the overall efforts as related to drug and alcohol support services provided by the college.

1. Review of Student Catalog/Handbook
2. Review of Faculty/Staff Programming
3. Completion of the Drug-Free Schools and Campus Regulations Compliance Checklist
4. Review of Campus Alcohol and Drug Violations
5. Review of Drug and Alcohol programming for 2017 and 2018
6. Establishment of Recommended Actions for Future

Review of Student Catalog/Handbook

As part of an annual process the campus's Student Catalog / Handbook is reviewed to ensure the accuracy of information as-well-as to ensure the presence of best practices for student operations. 2018 was a particularly active year as the campus launched a new strategic plan. The ripple of that plan filtered throughout all campus documents. Existing practices were reviewed and analyzed. Where needed programs were updated. The Student Catalog/Handbook is located at <http://seark.edu/admissions/college-catalog>

Specific Drug and Alcohol polices include:

1. Statement of Drug Free Campus and Workplace pg 6
2. Drug Testing Policy (for select programs) pg 26
3. Substance Abuse Program pg 58
4. Prohibition of Illegal Drugs and Alcohol pg 73
5. Substance and Drug Abuse Prevention Policy pg 61
6. Technical Career Programs Drug Policy pg 96
7. Nursing and Allied Health Drug Testing Policy pg 123

Review of Faculty and Staff Programming

All Southeast Arkansas College employees have free access to a wide range of educational, resources-based, or referral-based assistance to help meet their needs, free of charge. For the past few years, AR Benefits, the plan administrator for benefits for State of Arkansas employees, has offered free resources through Guidance Resources.

The resources cover education about choosing physicians, selecting programs, and preparing for physician visits. Resources offered include self-help tools for Emotional Wellbeing, Relationships, Health, Resilience, and Assessments. There are tools for community resources from Addiction to Utility Bills, and much in between.

AR Benefits sends out monthly newsletters to the HR department that are then broadcast by e-mail to all active College employees. The newsletters cover a wide range of topics and include directions on accessing these free services.

The Drug Free Workplace Policy and Procedures are located on page 24-25 in the Faculty and Staff Handbook located at <http://seark.edu/employees/faculty-and-staff-handbook>

Completion of the Drug-Free Schools and Campus Regulations Compliance Checklist

The Completion of the Drug-Free Schools and Campus Regulations Compliance Checklist is an instrument provided by the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention. This is a 13 question checklist that was used to appraise the overall efforts of the campus drug and alcohol prevention programming. For items that were not currently being done or for items that could be improved plans were made for the coming year. The completed checklist can be located in **Appendix 1**.

Review of Campus Alcohol and Drug Violations for 2017 and 2018

The campus did not have any student drug or alcohol violations for the years 2017 or 2018. The campus did have two incidents where none students came to the campus and were under the influence. In both cases the individual was escorted off campus. In one of the instances the individual returned a second time and was arrested by city police.

While the low number of student violations may on the surface appear to be a positive, a concern exists that perhaps the college could better improve monitoring and engagement of students to better provide support to those who may be battling addiction. The Campus Safety Committee and the Student Advising and Retention Teams are exploring ways to better support the campus community and make resources more available to students, faculty and staff.

Review of Drug and Alcohol programming for 2017 and 2018

SEARK College provided a series of programming and resource services to the campus community. These efforts were sorted into several categories including Lunch & Learns, Health Fair, Resource Fair, and passive materials available in the Advising and Retention Office.

Lunch & Learn:

April 18, 2017 Domestic Violence- Speaker Kelly Bohlmann

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that's used by an intimate partner to gain or maintain power and control over the other partner. When combined with an addiction to drugs or alcohol, domestic abuse can quickly escalate into a dangerous situation that is hard to get away from. Attendees were very engaged with the program. *26 student, faculty and staff attended this event.*

September 26, 2017 Human Trafficking – Speaker Angela Roby

Exploiting women and youth is a crime that is often associated with drug abuse. Particularly considering this country's opioid epidemic, there is evidence to suggest a close relationship between human trafficking and drug addiction. These traffickers often target people with substance use disorders and use the promise of unlimited drugs to keep their victims under control. Once trapped by a human trafficker, it becomes more bearable to stay high on drugs than to endure the pain and suffering of life as a prisoner. Unfortunately, that same victim also becomes even more dependent on captors for the addictive drugs. *86 students, faculty and staff who attend this event.*

October 25, 2017 Chasing the Dragon Fighting Opioid Addiction

“Chasing the Dragon” is a documentary produced by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Administration, which exposes the truth behind the opioid epidemic which is devastating communities in the State of Arkansas and across the United States. The documentary featured the true-life stories and experiences of people who have dealt with the opioid epidemic. The goal of the film was more than just raising awareness about the opioid epidemic. The film was intended to deter young adults from venturing into the drug culture, to help students understand opioid addiction, and to demonstrate the strong grip it has on users. *108 students, faculty and staff attended the event.*

September 25, 2018 Suicide Prevention- Speaker Amanda Thomas with Arkansas Department of Health. Alcohol and substance abuse problems contribute to suicidal behavior in several ways. Persons who are dependent on substances often have several other risk factors for suicide. In addition to being depressed, they are also likely to have social and financial problems. Substance use and abuse can be common among persons prone to be impulsive, and among persons who engage in many types of high-risk behaviors that result in self-harm. *55 students, faculty and staff attended the event.*

Health Fairs:

October 11, 2017: Vendors from across the health spectrum attended the event and provided a series of services and resource information to students. Several vendors provided information related to alcohol and drug prevention materials.

October 10, 2018 Stomp Out Smoking.

Variety of Different programming options were available. The purpose as to reduce the dependence on tobacco. In addition information was provided about different services available through different city and state agencies. *164 students, faculty and staff attended the event.*

Resource Fair:

September 20, 2017 – Community services from throughout the region were invited to

share information with student faculty and staff. Specific community partners of note included:

Jefferson County Drug Court

“The Jefferson County Drug Court is a judicially supervised court docket that reduces correctional costs, enhances community safety, and improves public welfare. In these programs, seriously addicted individuals remain in treatment for long periods of time while under close supervision. Court participants must meet obligations to themselves, their families, and society.

“To ensure accountability, they are regularly and randomly tested for substance use, required to appear frequently in court for the judge to review their progress, rewarded for meeting goals, and sanctioned for not meeting clearly stated obligations,” according to a news release.

The P.A.T. Center (People Advocating Transition)

The P.A.T Center is considered your first-choice mental health and outpatient substance abuse care provider, serving as an advocate, facilitator, and friend. They ensure your success in getting your life and family in order by supporting you every step of the way, so together, they can build better Arkansas communities for a better tomorrow. *238 students. Faculty and staff attended the event.*

September 19, 2018 Resource Fair

Similar groups attended as in 2017. In 2018 *171 students, faculty and staff attended the event.*

Passive Resource available in the Retention & Advisement Office:

Brochures/Pamphlets are available for anyone to pick up:

- Drug & Alcohol Facts
- Emotional Wellness
- Outpatient Treatment for adults & adolescents-Riverdale of Arkansas
- Mental Illness-Southeast Arkansas Behavioral Healthcare System
- Kids and Alcohol Prevention
- Underage Drinking – Out of Control
- Let’s Talk About It #StopSuicide - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Establishment of Recommended Actions for Future

1. Improve the process for notifying students and employees about information related to alcohol and other drugs,
2. Create a centralized compliance process that helps monitor the effectiveness of drug and alcohol prevention programs and ensures compliance,

3. Development of a student survey instrument to allow for annual monitoring of drug and alcohol by students.
4. Create an advisory committee for alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse prevention programs.