

Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations Biennial Review

In Compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

FY25 (Fall 2024-Spring 2025) – FY26 (Fall 2025-Spring 2026)



Prepared by Biennial Review Committee

Nicole Bowen, Director of the Counseling Center

Nicolas Steilen, Director of Residence Life & Student Union

Zoe Landis, Assistant Director of Disability, Prevention, and Intervention Services

Cc: Dr. John Ballard, President

Dakota State University President's Cabinet

Report Overview

- I. Dakota State University Wellness Programming – Mission Statement
- II. Alcohol & Other Drug Policy
 - AOD Policy Application & Enforcement
 - University Sanctions & Program Requirements
 - Policy Distribution Procedures
- III. Student Violations of AOD Policy During Reporting Period
 - Considerations Regarding Policy & Student Violations
- IV. Counseling Center
- V. Programming During Reporting Period
 - Program Strengths
 - Program Challenges
- VI. Recommendations for Revision & Improvement
- VII. Appendix

I. Dakota State University Wellness Programming- Mission Statement

It is the policy of Dakota State University to create and maintain a drug-free work and study environment <https://dsu.edu/policy/drug-free-environment.html>. The improper use of controlled substances or alcohol is inconsistent with the professional and responsible behavior we expect of employees and students. It also subjects all employees, students, and visitors to our facilities to unacceptable health and safety risks and undermines Dakota State University's ability to operate effectively and efficiently.

The mission of Dakota State University's Counseling Center is to promote student persistence, retention and academic success by providing a system of resources, offering access to a continuum of mental health, and alcohol and drug use.

II. Alcohol and Other Drug Policy

AOD Policy Application and Enforcement

Dakota State University Alcohol & Other Drug (AOD) Policy is in compliance with South Dakota Board of Regents policy 3.4 Student Code of Conduct 3.4.

The DSU Counseling Center offers student prevention and intervention strategies, ranging from basic alcohol education to referrals for assessment and case management for formalized substance use treatment. Combined with an effective student support network and a community/campus-wide referral system, DSU's Counseling Center offers activities and services designed to meet a wide range of student needs.

Dakota State University Athletics Department adopted policies and procedures for drug screening for student-athletes. The purpose of the procedures are to provide safe and equitable competition for student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletic programs consistent with the high ethical standards and the goals and objectives of the university.

University Sanctions and Program Requirements

Policy guidelines allow for a combination of educational and/or treatment requirements and/or disciplinary probation based on the strike level of the violation. Counseling Center interventions and required directives increase in intensity based on strike level. All interventions are implemented with the goal of reducing recidivism rate.

Sanctions and AOD Program Requirements and Brief Overview

1st Alcohol Violation

Written Warning

Community standards conversation with the hearing officer

Appropriate educational resource material review and reflection assignment

2nd Alcohol Violation

Letter of Reprimand

Community standards conversation with the hearing officer

Meeting with the campus Counseling Center

Period of disciplinary probation to be no less than one academic semester which must include either a fall or spring semester

3rd Alcohol Violation

Student Code of Conduct Board

Meeting with the campus Counseling Center

Likely assessment referral and 100% compliance with all recommendations

Participation in an individual or group intervention and prevention program

Possibility of suspension from the Board of Regents system for a period of no less than one academic semester which must include either a fall or spring semester

1st Chemical Substance Violation

Written Warning

Community standards conversation with the hearing officer

Appropriate educational resource material review and reflection assignment

2nd Chemical substance violation

Letter of Reprimand

Community standards conversation with the hearing officer

Meeting with the campus Counseling Center

Period of disciplinary probation to be no less than one academic semester which must include either a fall or spring semester

3rd Chemical substance violation

Student Code of Conduct board

Meeting with the campus Counseling Center

Likely chemical use assessment referral and 100% compliance with all directives

Likely consideration of suspension from the university for a period of no less than one academic year which must include a fall and spring semester

Policy Distribution Procedures

Student Handbook. The entire student handbook, including AOD policy and sanctions, has been available for access on the university website since 2000.

Student Orientation. AOD policy is reviewed at Student Orientation each term.

Residence Hall Meetings. AOD policy is discussed in detail at both all-hall and floor-only meetings on the first two days of move-in.

The Counseling Center presents with other personnel to individual classrooms throughout the year.

Faculty & Staff. The Drug-Free Workplace policy [Drug-Free Environment](#) is located and available for faculty/staff on DSU website. Human Resources shows new employees where the DSU handbook and policies are located during onboarding.

III. Student Violations of AOD Policy During Reporting Period

There was a total of 34 student violations of the AOD Policy during the reporting period FY25 & FY26.

Total Violations

FY25	25 Violations	74 %
FY26	9 Violations	26 %
Total	34 Violations	100%

Violation by Strike Level

1 st Strike	32	94 %
2 nd Strike	2	6 %
3 rd Strike	0	0%
4 th Strike	0	0%
Total	34	100%

Trends – Violations by Reporting Period

FY15 – **42**, FY16 – **18**

FY17 – **25**, FY18 – **20**

FY19 – **33**, FY20 – **8**

FY21 - **20**, FY22 – **25**

FY23 – **6**, FY24 – **19**

FY25 - **25**, FY26 - **9**

Considerations Regarding Policy and Student Violations During Reporting Period

Housing and Student Conduct have been working together to increase training to RA staff and RHD staff in order to ensure policies are being followed and upheld.

Training has included improved Observation Reports, Research on best practices for sanctions staying within the boundaries of the SDBOR policies.

IV. Counseling Center

DSU's Counseling Center offers student access to a continuum of confidential, wellness, alcohol and other drug-based services. Many of these services are provided "in-house" by our office at no charge to the student; other services are provided through direct referrals to outside service agencies and regional support networks.

The Counseling Center continues to see an increase in student self-referrals for services. This may be due to increasing program visibility on campus, combined with the successful outcomes of students utilizing services.

V. Programming During Reporting Period

Continued program assessment and evaluation are critical to success in reaching institutional student persistence and retention goals. For reasons, many times outside the focus of our control, a seeming growing percentage of students are not properly positioned for academic success upon arriving on campus. Combined with a seeming shrinking timeline due to institutional and system-wide academic performance requirements, there continues to be a significant increase in the demand for services and resources (both human and technology) required to provide students.

The following program were offered by the Counseling Center during FY25 and FY26:

- Washroom Wellness Chronicles posted each month in bathroom across campus for DSU students, faculty, and staff
- 21st Birthday Cards sent out each month and social media updates
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Week– provide information on Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- The Counseling Center trained RA staff each semester. Topics included policy enforcement and procedures, available student resources, and training on relevant issues such as Acute Alcohol Intoxication: Signs, Symptoms, and Responses. The Counseling Center will continue this training and include additional wellness information such as sexual responsibility.
- Vector Solutions – alcohol and substances modules sent out and recommended to all incoming students to complete. In the coming year we will be transitioning to Alivetech.
- Finals Week Stress Reduction activities – Escape Room, LEC Break Area, and Relaxation Room

Additionally, the following programs were offered and/or encouraged by Residence Life during FY25 and FY26:

- Alcohol use programming including faux impaired driving activities, alcohol information, and mocktails programming to talk about alcohol amounts.
- De-stress programs throughout the semester were provided for students to allow for the ability to make connections.

- Offered social alternatives throughout the academic year by offering programming in the halls and on campus.
- Information was shared with students through hall bulletin boards about personal wellness topics ranging from sleep, healthy eating etc.

Program Strengths

- A refocused approach that is holistic, preventative, and harm-reducing.
- An intervention model that focuses on harm-reduction rather than total abstinence opens the lines of communication between counselor and student to establish ways to reduce the risk for further personal, health, and/or legal consequences.
- The Counseling Center visibility and perception as viable resource as evidenced by the increased numbers of student self-reporting of policy violations both on-and-off-campus, as well as student self-referrals for services.
- A strong Student Affairs Office/Residence Life commitment to DSU policy is evidenced by residence life staff training in detection and intervention strategies. Procedures for processing violations is communicated in all-hall and floor-only meetings to include expectations related to policy enforcement and related sanctions. Collaboration with the Counseling Center in referring to potential student incidents that do not rise to the level of an official policy violation yet threaten student persistence and/or retention is consistent and continuous.
- Cooperative relationship continues with Community Counseling Services, Rising Hope and Donelan Counseling, LLC. for the case management of students. Our yearly contract for mental health services resulted in a substantial reduction in service costs for students. Having multiple service providers available for students has helped to ensure students are comfortable with the provider they are working with. This continues to have a positive impact on student perception of university policy and the Counseling Center.
- The Counseling Center has developed the capacity and flexibility to implement program interventions based on individualized student need and/or degree of violation level severity. Student repeat offense rates continue to be low because of this flexibility.
- The Counseling Center also has a Prevention and Intervention Specialist that strengthens prevention and education efforts for mental well-being and substance use.

Program Challenges

- According to a national survey, more than half of college students ages 18–22 drank alcohol in the past month, and a third of them engaged in binge drinking. Approximately 2 in 5 college students engaged in illicit drug use and more than a third of college students used marijuana in the past year. (SAMHSA. 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health)
- Encouraging students to voluntarily participate in education and prevention activities is a challenge for the college student population. Collaboration with our residence life staff, student engagement and leadership office, and counseling center staff has increased participation during this report period. DSU will continue to look at methods of enhancing student engagement.

VI. Recommendations for Revision and Improvement

- DSU will continue to develop and promote wellness and prevention programming based on various data sets.
- DSU will continue development of the Counseling Center staff and other campus partners through professional development and continuing education.
- DSU will complete a co-curricular assessment for wellness programming to help identify areas of need.

VII. Appendix

South Dakota Board of Regents policy 3.4:

<https://public.powerdms.com/SDRegents/tree/documents/1680638>

DSU Student Handbook: <https://dsu.edu/student-handbook.html>

DSU Policies: <https://dsu.edu/policies.html>