

STONEHILL COLLEGE
Drug-Free Schools and Campus Regulations Biennial Report
July 2021

Introduction

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and Part 86 of the Department of Education's General Administrative Regulations requires that institutions of higher education that receive federal funding adopt and implement drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs for both students and employees. As part of this law, institutions must also provide a biennial review of the program. This review is meant to help institutions (1) determine its effectiveness and implement changes to the program if they are needed; and (2) ensure that disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

I. Campus Prevention and Awareness Programs

Only in an environment free of substance abuse can Stonehill College fulfill its mission of developing the academic, professional, social, cultural, and intellectual potential of each member of the community. The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol impair the safety and health of students and employees, inhibit personal and academic growth, and can adversely impact the living and learning environment within the community. For these reasons, the unlawful use of alcohol and other drugs is prohibited on campus and at College-sponsored activities.

Alcohol and other drug abuse education and prevention programs have been established and are coordinated by Student Affairs with assistance from Counseling Services, Health Services, Community Standards, Residence Life, and other College departments. Programs provide training and direct services to the College community and offer preventative education and outreach activities about the Substance Awareness Policy and alcohol and other drug abuse.

Select college staff, as well as student staff in the residence halls and other campus leaders, receive comprehensive training on a regular basis on issues regarding alcohol and other drug use and abuse.

Counseling Services and Health Services staff are available for consultation concerning individual students with alcohol or other drug problems. Services provided through Counseling Services include personal assessment and counseling, group discussion opportunities, educational and alternative programming, information on Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholic Anonymous, and referrals to outside agencies. Counseling Services and Health Services have established working relationships with area hospitals, community mental health centers, and other social service agencies to facilitate referrals when treatment is needed. We have a strong partnership with Gosnold, a nationally accredited leader in the prevention, treatment, and recovery of substance abuse disorders.

The Health and Wellness Office provides health education, awareness events, and prevention programs on a variety of topics including but not limited to stress reduction, physical activity, nutrition, smoking cessation, and healthy relationships throughout the entire academic year. Services range from workshops, individual consultation, or presentations by request with either the director or the Peer Health Educator team. The Office is located in the Roche Dining Commons, Room 101. This location is intentional as most students will pass by the office on their way to the dining hall.

II. Description of the College's AOD program elements

The Offices of Student Affairs, Counseling Services, Health Services, Community Standards, and Residence Life, coordinate the College's alcohol and other drug abuse education and prevention programs. Programs include preventative education and training on alcohol and other drug abuse and the Substance Awareness Policy, as well as direct services and outreach programs to the College community. Our AOD program includes:

- The Alcohol and Other Drug Committee is a standing committee that is made up of students, staff, and faculty. They are charged with overseeing the implementation of recommendations that emerge from empirical research and best practices. The Committee is responsible for developing and executing an annual plan to address alcohol and other drug issues in a comprehensive manner, as well as providing on-going progress reports to the Stonehill community regarding the work of the Committee and its impact on student behavior. The Committee also seeks to reduce secondary issues related to alcohol and other drug abuse.
- The Office of Health and Wellness web page provides AOD data for student reference: <http://www.stonehill.edu/offices-services/health-wellness/>
- The College continues our relationship with EverFi, a national coalition that works to address alcohol and other drug abuse using evidence-based practices.
- All incoming students are required to complete the online EverFi course AlcoholEdu.
- The College utilizes research and community specific data from assessments (*e.g.* CIRP, CORE, AlcoholEdu) to inform practices.
- Student Affairs issues referrals for alcohol and other drug assessments and plans for on-going support.
- The College annually distributes DFSCA notices to students and employees (see Appendices).
- The College's Employee Assistance Program offers free counseling to employees on a variety of issues including drug and alcohol concerns.
- Campus Police works closely with the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, an agency charged with uniform control over the sale, transportation, possession, purchasing, and manufacturing of alcoholic beverages in the Commonwealth, to investigate instances of underage drinking at off campus establishments.
- Professional staff in Residence Life as well as student staff within residence halls receive on-going training regarding alcohol use and abuse.

- A required seminar for first-year students includes a presentation on decision making related to drug and alcohol use.
- The College schedules alcohol-free events during the day and evening.
- The College and Student Government Association sponsors a “Fun Fund,” a grant that students can apply for to receive financial support to participate in an alcohol-free activity.
- The College provides speakers and activities that promote good decision making around drug and alcohol use, and address potential negative consequences surrounding abuse of substances.
- The College offers student and family presentations during new student orientation on topics related to drug and alcohol use.
- The College has a recreation center and sponsors intramural sports during evening hours.

III. Statement of AOD program goals

Stonehill’s AOD program seeks to decrease high-risk drinking and other drug use by Stonehill students.

IV. Strengths and weaknesses of the College’s AOD program

The College uses a comprehensive, coordinated approach to increase alcohol and other drug awareness, which stems from the mission of the College: “developing the academic, professional, social, cultural, and intellectual potential of each member of the community.” The College provides selective programming in an effort to target students with demonstrated signs of alcohol problems and has increased its use of data in assessing campus culture and developing evidence-based strategies. This empirical data is relied upon to inform decisions and policy review. Alcohol and drug policies, as well as the adjudication of these policies, are strong and consistent and provide opportunity to educate and assess students at risk.

The College has also developed a consistent messaging and marketing strategy for AOD awareness with which students identify.

Consistent Enforcement

The College puts forth an extensive effort to detect violations of the Community Standards, specifically in regards to drug and alcohol violations, and to consistently enforce its policies against all types of students. The Office of Community Standards bears primary responsibility for the detection of AOD violations and consistent enforcement of College policies. The Office of Community Standards is staffed by a full-time director and a full-time coordinator. The Director has fifteen years of experience and holds an advanced degree. The Director’s duties are focused on prevention (5%), adjudication (90%), and policy enforcement efforts (5%).

The Director of Community Standards, along with the Coordinator, holds annual trainings for the Residence Life Staff and Campus Police regarding the College’s AOD policies. Additionally, the Director

and Coordinator are available for individual consultations with all college consistencies regarding AOD questions.

The Offices of Residence Life and Campus Police are responsible for the vast majority of documenting violations of the College's AOD policies. The Residence Life staff employs 9 professional staff members (seven live-in Resident Directors) and 56 resident assistants. The Resident Directors and Resident Assistants provide consistent oversight of the eight residence halls on campus. The staff focuses on prevention (10%), adjudication (10%) and community relations (80%). Additionally, Campus Police is comprised of 15 full-time sworn police officers. These officers work in shifts and are responsible for monitoring the campus grounds.

V. Recommended improvements to the College's AOD programs

1. Continue to deliver training to residence hall student staff that encourages consistent enforcement of alcohol policies in the residence halls while simultaneously developing a strong sense of community.
2. Explore ways that additional financial resources can be used for alcohol prevention at Stonehill.
3. Continue to work closely with the Stonehill College Campus Police department to address AOD misuse on campus and in the local community.
4. Prioritize evidence-based prevention programming.
5. Continue to implement the recommendations of the College's AOD Committee in a consistent manner.
6. Engage more campus members in AOD efforts.

VI. AOD Notification

At least once a year, the Office of the General Counsel reviews and revises the College's alcohol and drug policies to reflect changes in the law. The College distributes its annual written AOD notification to students, faculty, and staff via multiple sources: a legal notices pamphlet, the student handbook, and the Employee Handbook. The steps we took to ensure that everyone received the notice are set forth below.

Legal Notices Pamphlet: The College distributes a hard copy Legal Notices pamphlet that contains all notices that must be delivered in hard copy, including the AOD notification. The College sends the notice to commuter students via U.S. mail, and delivers it to residential students at the time they receive their room keys. The College delivers the pamphlet to employees via campus mail at the start of the fall semester, and thereafter on a rolling basis for new employees.

Student Handbook: The student handbook is available to all students, faculty, and staff via the College's website. The registrar sends an e-mail to all students each year with a link to the current handbook when it becomes available. The link to the handbook is: <http://catalog.stonehill.edu/>.

Employee Handbook: The College provides the notices to all newly hired employees via the Employee Handbook and a link to the College Policy Manual, which is available on the College's intranet. We require newly hired employees to sign a statement verifying that they have reviewed the information.

VII. Copies of Policies

- Substance Awareness Policy and Statement of Compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act
- DFSCA Annual Notice to Students
- DFSCA Annual Notice to Employees
- Vice-President and Dean of Student's Letter to First-Year Families