

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DCFSCA) requires all institutions of higher education that receive federal funds to conduct a Biennial Review of all alcohol and other drug prevention efforts. The Review is expected to include an evaluation of these efforts, recommendations for improvement based on that evaluation, and a report on the number of violations of alcohol and other drug standards of conduct, the number of disciplinary sanctions assigned as a result of violations, and the number of alcohol and other drug fatalities.

The most recent Biennial Review collected data from the academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The departments contributing to the review were Substance and Violence Education Support, Student Standards and Conduct, Human Resources, University Compliance, and the Radford University Police Department.

DFSCA Task Force Membership consisted of the following:

- Mr. Bruce Hayden, Dean of Students
- Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Ms. Cora Taylor, Assistant Director of Substance and Violence Education Support (SAVES) services
- Mr. David Stuart, Director of Student Standards and Conduct
- Ms. Jenene Lewis, Employee Relations Specialist
- Lt. Scott Shaffer, Radford University Police Department

SUMMARY OF BIENNIAL REVIEW FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Focus Area	Findings	Recommendations
Alcohol and Other Drug Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming and services are regularly evaluated for effectiveness, including biannual student surveys and focus groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue regular assessment through student feedback, national benchmarking, and data analysis to ensure programs meet student needs.
Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Program and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC) continues to grow, offering peer support, sober social events, and educational workshops. • Student participation in recovery programs has steadily increased. • Collaboration with local treatment centers has strengthened, offering additional resources to students in need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the CRC by increasing outreach efforts, securing more funding for staffing and resources, and developing partnerships with community recovery programs. • Develop specialized programming to connect with specific subsets of students (e.g., graduate students, underserved populations).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more recovery-friendly campus housing options and sober events to reach a broader audience.
<p>Reported Alcohol and Other Drug Violations, Sanctions, and Deaths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of violations varies by academic year, with a decrease in incidents following targeted prevention initiatives. • Sanctions include educational components, but some students express frustration with the punitive nature of sanctions (e.g., fines). • No alcohol or drug-related deaths reported in past two years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase early intervention programs and peer-led initiatives to further reduce violations. • Continued implementation of educational sanctions that emphasize personal responsibility and harm reduction. • Consider restorative justice approaches that focus on repairing harm and reintegrating students into the community.
<p>Campus Alcohol and Other Drug Policies/Procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and procedures are reviewed, at minimum, biannually to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and compliant with legal standards. • Staff have reported needing more training on updated policies and how to support students with substance use disorders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the review process includes student input and considers trends in student behavior. Regularly update staff on policy changes and provide ongoing training on enforcement and intervention techniques. • Enhance coordination with local law enforcement and off-campus housing to address alcohol and drug-related incidents occurring off-campus. • Provide specialized training for staff to better support students struggling with substance use.

Historical Review of Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Efforts

Assessment of Alcohol and Other Drug Use, Behaviors, and Attitudes

Comparative Analysis of Historical Data

	CORE 2008	CORE 2010	NCHA 2013	NCHA 2016	U-Celebrate! 2018
Alcohol - Annual	91.6%	92%	-	-	-
Alcohol – 30-day prevalence	82.8%	84.4%	74.8%	67.2%	57.8%
Marijuana - Annual	40%	41.2%	-	-	-
Marijuana – 30-day prevalence	23.2%	29.2%	28.4%	27.6%	-
Driven while intoxicated – (CORE annual; NCHA 30 day prevalence)	48.4%	28%	17.5%	10.9%	-

Core Survey (2008, 2010)

Southern Illinois University offers the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey. The “Short Form” version has 23 questions and can be completed in 20 minutes. The “Long Form” version has 30 questions and can be completed in 35 minutes. The 2008 survey included 505 respondents, and the 2010 survey included 501. Raw data is unavailable. Radford stopped utilizing the Core Survey after 2010.

National Social Norms Center- U-Celebrate! Survey (2018)

Beginning in the Academic Year 2017-2018, SAVES discontinued using the NCHA due to changes in survey requirements for the RU Normal social norming grant. The National Social Norms Center at Michigan State University created and administered the U-Celebrate! Survey, which explores the celebratory nature of alcohol consumption on college campuses. The survey assesses campus demographics, behaviors related to alcohol, as well as attitudes and perceptions related to alcohol. The survey can be completed within 20 minutes, but raw data is unavailable. The following represents data from the responses of identified drinkers in the format of official summary report tables. The charts below show data collected in the spring of 2018, the spring of 2019, and the spring of 2022. SAVES could not administer the survey in the spring of 2020 and Spring of 2021 due to COVID-19.

The U-Celebrate! Survey administered in spring of 2019 included 448 respondents, the U-Celebrate! survey administered in spring 2019 included 589 respondents and the U-Celebrate! survey administered in the spring of 2022 included 534 respondents. The funding from Anheuser Busch was not continued, and therefore, 2022 was the last year funding was provided for LiveWell as well as the previous year’s data was able to be collected.

Problematic Experiences (Annual)	2017-18	2018-19	2020-21	2021-22
Got into legal trouble	2.7%	2.9%	N/A	1.7%
Got into trouble with your college/university	3.0%	3.1%	N/A	2.5%
Physically injured another person	4.7%	2.9%	N/A	1.7%
Did something you later regretted	23.3%	26.3%	N/A	22.7%
Forgot where you were or what you did	24.1%	23.0%	N/A	24.1%
Got involved in a fight	6.6%	4.8%	N/A	3.6%
Had someone use force or the threat of force to have sex with you	4.0%	3.6%	N/A	3.6%
Physically injure yourself	14.0%	12.1%	N/A	11.6%
Damaged a relationship with a family member, friend or significant other	8.6%	7.6%	N/A	8.6%
Had unprotected sex	22.9%	23.8%	N/A	20.6%
Received a lower grade on an assignment, test, or paper	14.6%	15.4%	N/A	11.9%
Received a lower final grade in a class	7.1%	6.2%	N/A	6.7%
Missed class	18.3%	21.8%	N/A	22.7%
Missed work	8.3%	8.3%	N/A	6.9%

Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programs and Services

Radford University offered various activities and services related to alcohol and other drug prevention during the reporting period. Educational programming was delivered by the Director of Student Counseling Services and SAVES, the Assistant Director of SAVES, one full-time alcohol and other drug counselor, and a part-time peer support specialist.

Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Services

At Radford University, students who violate the institution's alcohol policy are mandated to participate in the RU Aware program, a structured intervention managed by the university's Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Counselor, who is a licensed mental health provider. The RU Aware program is an educational and supportive initiative to address substance use issues while fostering personal responsibility and promoting healthier decision-making among students. The program is divided into levels tailored to the severity and recurrence of each violation, ensuring that students receive an appropriate intervention level based on their unique circumstances and needs.

For students who experience a first-offense alcohol violation, participation in a psychoeducational group session is required. These groups are facilitated by specially trained staff from the Conduct office, Housing and Residential Life, or clinical interns from the university's Counselor's Education program. This group setting, attended by other students

facing similar first-time offenses, is designed to facilitate peer learning, where participants can discuss their experiences, reflect on the impact of their choices, and learn from each other's perspectives. The session introduces students to key concepts around alcohol use, the risks associated with misuse, and strategies to minimize potential harm. Through structured discussions and activities led by the AOD Counselor, students are encouraged to explore the underlying factors contributing to their substance use and to develop personal goals for future behavior.

Students who receive a second or third alcohol offense or a drug offense are assigned to more intensive levels of the RU Aware program. This enhanced program, coordinated by the SAVES (Substance and Violence Education Support) office, incorporates diagnostic and bio-psychosocial assessments to comprehensively understand each student's needs. Programming for Level II is facilitated by the Peer Recovery Specialist from the SAVES office. The AOD Counselor facilitates programming for Level III. Based on the assessment results during Level III, the AOD Counselor offers individualized recommendations, which may include referrals to additional on-campus services or external community resources. The program also includes targeted alcohol and drug education, practical risk-reduction strategies, and decision-making skills to empower students to make safer, more informed choices.

Additionally, the AOD Counselor addresses co-occurring mental health and dependency issues, recognizing that substance use often intersects with other aspects of a student's well-being. When necessary, referrals are provided to other support services on campus or within the community to ensure students receive a holistic approach to their recovery and overall wellness.

During this reporting period, students were assigned to the following levels within the RU Aware program:

- **Level I: 213 students registered; 139 attended**
- **Level II: 32 registered; 29 attended**
- **Level III: 4 students registered; 2 attended**

This tiered approach helps students understand the consequences of their actions and equips them with essential life skills to navigate substance use challenges in a university environment.

Educational Prevention Programs

Prevention programs at Radford University have been provided by a collaboration of campus and community partners, including SAVES, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Fraternity and Sorority Life, and the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley. The following information was from the SAVES Annual Report 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The SAVES program collects data through program evaluations from the programs listed to determine program effectiveness and student impact.

1. The Step Up! Bystander Intervention program is offered annually, as requested by academic courses, resident advisors, and student organizations.

- During the reporting period, 25 individual programming requests for Bystander Intervention Training were provided, reaching 588 students compared to only 154 students during the previous reporting period.
2. Alcohol and Substance Awareness programming was provided to student organizations upon request. These trainings consisted of Helping Highlanders Make Healthy Choices, REVIVE! trainings, and Recovery Ally training. During the reporting period, SAVES presented 33 programs on topics of alcohol and other drug use, reaching over 1068 students.
 3. In addition, SAVES provided campus-wide tabling throughout the year and campus and community-wide events for Recovery Month, Domestic Violence Awareness, and Sexual Assault Awareness, which touched an additional 1697 students and community members through 55 events.
 4. SAVES also offers Trauma and Resilience Training on the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences and high-risk health behaviors in adults. During this reporting period, SAVES implemented 18 training sessions for students, faculty, and staff, and 703 individuals were trained.
 5. SAVES opened the Recovery Lounge in the fall of 2021 and has seen consistent growth in the Collegiate Recovery Community.

DFSA Student Policies

Alcohol: Improper use or possession of alcohol, including but not limited to:

- a. Unlawful use, possession, or consumption of alcohol, including underage possession, public intoxication, and driving under the influence
- b. Unlawful furnishing, distribution, or manufacturing of alcohol
- c. Violating any local, state, or federal alcohol laws
- d. Serving alcohol to students on University property and at University-sponsored events not on University property without prior approval from the Vice President for Student Affairs

Drugs and other substances:

- a. Illegal use, possession, or consumption of cannabis, including but not limited to the use or possession of cannabis by those under 21 years of age
- b. Possession or use of cannabis on University property or at University sponsored events. Federal law, including the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, continues to prohibit cannabis use or possession on University property or at university-sponsored events.
- c. Unlawful use, possession, or consumption of narcotics, controlled substances, other illegal drugs, or drug paraphernalia
- d. Illegal cultivating, growing, manufacturing, distributing, selling, sharing, or possessing any illegal or controlled substance
- e. Improper use of a substance or substances for intoxicating purposes
- f. Violating any local, state, or federal drug laws

Residence Hall Policy

Alcohol

- Students and guests under 21 may not possess or consume alcohol in university-operated

housing.

- Possession, consumption, and presence of alcohol is prohibited in rooms/units where all assigned residents are under the age of 21.
- Legal possession, consumption, and presence of alcohol are allowed in rooms/units where one or more assigned residents are 21 years of age or older. However, students and guests under the age of 21 still may not consume or possess alcohol.
- Bulk quantities of alcohol (i.e., quantities that one individual cannot reasonably consume) are prohibited.
- Involvement in activities or possession of items, games, or devices predominantly used for rapid consumption of alcohol (e.g., funnels, pong tables) is prohibited.
- Common source containers (e.g., kegs, punch bowls) are prohibited.

DISPLAY OF ALCOHOL MEMORABILIA & PARAPHERNALIA

- Plastic, glass, metal, or other containers that hold alcohol at the time of purchase and are decorated or on display in a student residence are not permitted.
- Students may not display alcohol signs or other related alcohol memorabilia so that they are visible from outside university-operated housing.

Faculty & Staff

Drug-Free Workplace Policy

As Radford University is a state agency in the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth of Virginia, all employees of Radford University must follow Policy Number 1.05 – Alcohol and Other Drugs issued by the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management. The purpose of the policy is to establish and maintain a work environment free from the adverse effects of alcohol and other drugs. The adverse effects of alcohol and other drugs create a serious threat to the welfare of fellow employees and Radford citizens. The policy outlines violations, responsibilities, disciplinary actions, and available rehabilitation programs to employees.

Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Violations, Sanctions, and AOD Related Deaths

Effective August 14, 2008, the Higher Education Opportunity Act mandated that institutions must determine the number of drug—and alcohol-related violations and fatalities and the number and type of sanctions imposed for those violations as part of their DFSC Biennial Review.

Violations Summary

Academic Year	Alcohol Violations by Students	Drug Violations by Students
----------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------------

2016-2017	652	273
2017-2018	379	132
2018-2019	207	160
2019-2020	252	94
2020-2021	172	43
2021-2022	118	45
2022-2023	140	43
2023-2024	184	31
Total	2104	821

The Radford University Department of Human Resources reported one drug/alcohol-related violation by a university employee during these reporting periods.

Sanctions Summary

Sanctions for Alcohol and Drug Violation (by Academic Year) for Students						
Sanction Type	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Alcohol and Other Drug Education	1857	1438	613	359	485	276
Educational Sanction	289	182	163	140	37	19
University Sanction	12	5	34	13	208	152
Sanction Type	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Formal Warning	286	198	193	173	58	64
Conduct Probation	284	221	220	138	100	67
Deferred Suspension	61	57	85	46	35	16
Suspension	15	14	10	12	2	2
Dismissal	1	1	0	0	1	0

- Educational Sanctions: Examples include papers, seminars, bi-weekly meetings with staff members, brief counseling, and treatment referrals.
- University Sanctions - examples include residence hall ban, residence relocation, and restitution
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education- examples include assessments and online education.

Alcohol and Other Drug-Related Deaths

On-Campus Alcohol and Drug related Deaths	
2016-2017	0

2017-2018	1
2018-2019	0
2019-2020	0
2020-2021	0
2021-2022	0
2022-2023	0
2023-2024	0

Recommendations for Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevent Efforts

Assessment of Alcohol and Other Drug Use, Behaviors, and Attitudes

To better assess alcohol and other drug use, behaviors, and attitudes of students, SAVES will continue to explore possibly screening/survey materials to gain a better understanding of campus needs and perceptions. Unfortunately, SAVES was unable to continue to receive funding from Anheuser Busch, which provided the LiveWell/SocialNorms data, and therefore has yet to have any survey material since it was last administered in 2021.

SAVES has increased training offered across campus to include Recovery Ally, REVIVE, Trauma, and Resilience, as well as to update existing training to better serve students and individualize those training based on the audience.

Program Evaluation

Comprehensive program evaluations are distributed following each training session, programming event, or educational series conducted on campus. These evaluations aim to gather valuable feedback from participants regarding their experiences, the effectiveness of the content delivered, and the program's overall impact. By assessing various aspects, such as the relevance of the material, the quality of instruction, and the logistics of the event, we strive to enhance future offerings and ensure that they meet the needs of our audience. All collected feedback is carefully analyzed and utilized to improve our training and educational initiatives.

Updates on Previous Recommendations

- We have continued to work to increase recovery support services by applying for OAA funding which was awarded to Radford University in Fall of 2023

allowing us to hire a full time Coordinator of Peer Services and a part time Peer, in addition to another part time peer hired through SOR funding. Both of those grants have provided support to the Collegiate Recovery Program expanding it to Highlander HOPE to provide support for students in recovery as well as those impacted by the disease of addiction.

- We continue to adapt programming, education, and support for the student body at Radford University. Radford's RU Aware program has been implemented to meet the need of Radford students facing sanctions.
- SAVES has implemented new training, Trauma, and Resilience, which focuses on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and their detrimental impacts on adulthood. Since its introduction, the training has grown increasingly popular among students, faculty, and staff and the community as a whole.