

***Drug-free Schools and Campuses Act
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Biennial Review
2002-2004***

***Compiled in Compliance with the
Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulation (34 CFR Part 86)***

By

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Introduction

Since 1989, institutions of higher education (IHE) have been required to adopt and implement programs to prevent unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs by students and employees, through the amendment of 34 CFR Part 86, the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations. Compliance with Part 86 is mandatory to maintain the receipt of any federal funds or financial assistance under any federal program. To ensure that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is compliant with these guidelines, a task force was established to complete a biennial review as outlined in Part 86 for the years 2002-2004.

The task force was assembled from a variety of constituencies across the UWSP campus to insure that the highest number of groups was represented in this process. This included faculty, academic staff, union employees, and student representatives from both the Student Government Association and the Residence Hall Association which met together on a monthly basis to identify the various areas to be reviewed, and make recommendations on findings. Materials reviewed included items such as the current edition of the Community Rights & Responsibilities, the Classified Employee Handbook, the Residential Living Handbook, student and employee conduct records, and alcohol and other drug (AOD) programming efforts for students and faculty/staff.

Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming Efforts at UWSP

In examining the types of programs offered at UWSP, there will be a separation of those offered for students, and those offered for faculty/staff. AOD prevention efforts at UWSP begin for students with orientation. A brief discussion of this topic area is part of the overall introduction to campus that all students and parents participate in.

In reviewing the programs which were provided for students, a diversity in types and venues was found. Residential Living provided numerous programs related to alcohol during the past two years, with 31 total during the 02-03 school year (12 active, 19 passive), and during the 03-04 school year provided 18 total with 8 active and 10 passive. At the time of the review, there was no mechanism in place to identify programming related to other drugs, so no data is available regarding those programs. Additional programming related to the Residential Living area is the annual Casino Night sponsored by the Residence Hall Association. The annual Steiner Hall Alcohol Fund Run (SHAAFR) organized by the residents of Steiner Hall is in its 24th year, where students run from the state capitol to UWSP to raise funds for alcohol awareness education.

Another method of provision of alcohol-related programming was the LIVE program (Learning Is a Valuable Experience), which is provided to first-time alcohol offenders through the Student Health Promotion office. Participants attend a three-hour program that provides education and an opportunity for personal examination of use. During the 02-03 school year 130 students attended the LIVE program, and for the 03-04 year, 167 individuals participated. Along with this, that office also provided tobacco cessation and education programs, with 12 offered during the 02-03 year, and 9 during the 03-04 school year. The SHP office also offers the program, "Reducing Your Risk," but no numbers for attendance were available.

The Counseling Center is another provider of services to students on campus, conducting 14 AODA screenings for students in the 02-03 school year, and 10 in the 03-04 academic year. Also offered is the use of a self-help library, and a workshop entitled, "Helping a Friend With a Drinking Problem." Statistics were not available for the number of users at the library, or for attendance at the workshop.

The Student Government Association is the final identified provider of programming to students. SGA offers Alcohol Awareness Jeopardy, a game-show type event held in the University Center. The SGA is also developing a brochure for off-campus students related to house parties and is exploring transportation programs in conjunction with the Tavern League as a means to combat drinking and driving. Promoting Awareness With Students (PAWS) holds an annual event, called "Bounce", and also provides peer-facilitated programs for students.

Programming offered for faculty/staff was not as comprehensive as that offered to students. The Counseling Center provides Employee Assistance Program services, as well as screenings. Numbers for individuals taking advantage of the EAP services were not available.

Programming Strengths and Areas for Change

Programming efforts for students were diverse and offered through a variety of providers. Residential Living offers the highest number of programs related to alcohol and other drugs. Prior to this review, statistics were only available for programs pertaining to alcohol. Since the collection of data for this project, Residential Living has updated their program reporting system to include other drugs in their own data collection. As a majority of these programs are offered in the building where students reside, they are

readily available, potentially reaching a higher number of students. Attendance is not taken during these programs, so it is not possible to identify the true impact Residential Living programs has on students.

The Student Health Promotion office would be the second most prolific provider of programming to students. Direct impact is had on first-time alcohol offenders, allowing reflection on choices being made related to the use of alcohol. However, there is not a similar program offered for first-time offenders with other substances. As individuals from the SHP office are available to make presentations in a variety of venues, this flexibility increases the potential for having an impact on students. While this does work well with students living on-campus, there may be some gap in services provided to those who live off-campus.

The Counseling Center does offer screenings to all campus students, which is typically dependent on referrals from others. While the service is offered, it may not be used to its full potential. The self-help library is also available, but does not seem to be publicized as well as it could be, to help in broadening the usage of the materials there. The introduction of the program, "Helping a Friend With a Drinking Problem" does address the issue of students concerned for their peers, and also opens a less-threatening door for students who may feel they have a problem themselves.

The Student Government Association attempts to reach a broader audience with their programs, so that both on-campus and off-campus students have access to them. The SGA's plan for the development of materials related to house parties does have merit, however, it would be important to have a focus on safety, rather than primarily legality. And while a transportation program would help to reduce driving under the influence, it could be perceived as an endorsement of over-consumption of alcohol, should it not include an educational component.

As another means of collecting information pertaining to the programs offered by all student organizations, a suggestion is made to ask that a report be made to the Student Involvement and Employment Office at the beginning of each academic year during the Re-Recognition process. Each organization would be asked to submit information related to the number of alcohol and other drug-related programs which were provided over the past year.

Programming for employees at UWSP was much more limited than that offered to students. While there is an EAP available through the Counseling Center, there is a marked lack of programs directed at employees. This is an area where there is a need for improvement, in order to provide the education needed by faculty/staff.

Overall, the majority of programs provided to both groups are more alcohol-related. Information on other drugs of abuse, or even non-drugs such as inhalants, is not adequately covered. Performance-enhancing drugs, like stimulants or steroids, are another area that may not receive the attention that is warranted.

Other recommendations are to develop a system to record campus-wide AODA programming on an annual basis, as well as developing and implementing a comprehensive campus-specific AODA prevention program.

Alcohol and Other Drug Policies

Policies related to alcohol and other drugs are available from a variety of sources. For students, they are included in the Community Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, the Guidepoint, the Residential Living Handbook, and via video through the Re-Recognition process conducted by SIEO for student organizations.

Availability of these materials varies, as the Community Rights and Responsibilities is available to all students electronically in the public folders on the UWSP network, but is limited in its availability in print form. Typically, a copy is kept at each department office. In Residential Living, a copy is kept at the front desk of each residence hall, with an additional copy being distributed to the Residence Hall Director. Copies are not individually distributed to students or employees. This publication contains detailed information related to policies concerning the use of alcohol and other substances on the UWSP campus.

The Guidepoint, a publication of the SIEO, is available to student leaders, and may be purchased. Members of the student leadership within the residence halls are provided with copies free-of-charge. Policies found within this publication are strictly pertaining to recognized student organizations, and not directed toward the individual student. The Residential Living Handbook, which is distributed to each student who resides in the residence halls, contains the alcohol policy as passed by the Residence Hall Association, and is specifically geared toward individuals living on-campus. Specific guidelines are presented related to the use of alcohol by individuals of legal drinking age, and those not of legal age. Information within the video used at Re-Recognition pertains strictly to student organizations.

Policies pertaining to employees are also found within the Community Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. Other policies are distributed in the Classified Employees Handbook, the Classified Employees Work Rules, and in an annual memo to employees. These last three are distributed to all classified employees, while all employees are to receive a copy of the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Violations

Policy violations related to alcohol and other drugs for students were access through the office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. A sample of files were reviewed within the 2-year period of the Biennial Review, with a total of 86 individual files being examined by the office of Rights and Responsibilities, with data reported to this task force.

Information related to those violations is as follows:

Of the 86 reviewed, 76 were alcohol violations, 7 were alcohol/disorderly conduct, and 3 were for marijuana. 56 were first offenders, 23 were second offenses, and 5 were a third offense, with 1 each of 4th and 5th offenses.

Sanctions for first offenders ranged from 4 weeks to 22 weeks probation; for second offenders the range was 4 weeks to 24 weeks. Additional sanctions included attendance at LIVE, reflection papers, community service, counseling, moves, signing of resignation letters, apology letters, making posters, and completing sections of the Judicial Educator.

Information provided by UWSP Protective Services related to alcohol and other substances was reviewed for the period of Sept 2002 – December 2003, which showed a total of 19 alcohol-related arrests/citation, and 7 drug-related arrests/citations out of 40 reports.

During the 2002-2003 school year, charges were varied as follows:

Adult Contribute/Underage Alcohol	1
Underage Alcohol Violation	16
Underage Drinking/Possession	1
Marijuana Possession	4
Operating While Intoxicated	1

During the 2003-2004 school year, the following reports were made through 12/03:

Underage Alcohol Violation	2
Underage Drinking/Possession	2

Information pertaining to employee violations of policy during the same two-year time span show that there were no reported violations that were directly connected to the use of alcohol or other drugs.

Policy Recommendations

Recommendations for policies found in the Community Rights and Responsibilities Handbook were varied, and follow:

Page 45 – under smoking policy, add the prohibition of sponsorship/promotion on campus by tobacco companies.

Page 47 – under philosophy, item A, add “abstinence and other” to stressing low-risk behaviors.

Page 47 – under programming, ensure the permanent review committee is established.

Page 48 – under intervention/self-referral, add Counseling Center to the list of offices.

Page 49 – under resources, delete Dean of Students Office, add Rights and Responsibilities and the Student Health Promotion Office.

Page 49 – update the AA Hotline number to: 888-292-6677.

Other Recommendations:

Establish a working group to systematically investigate the effectiveness of sanctions provided for students.

Establish within the Office of Rights and Responsibilities a comprehensive database of cases to aid in review processes as needed and provide accurate data regarding the conduct of students.

Begin a dialogue between Residential Living and the Office of Rights and Responsibilities in an effort to review sanctioning standards to ensure insofar as possible, the fair and consistent treatment of students.

Establish and/or generate understanding of training programs for all enforcement staff.

Establish and/or generate understanding of training programs for all adjudicating officers to include application of sanctions consistently and fairly.

Summary

While this review was comprehensive, it was obvious that there is information pertaining to alcohol and other drugs programming that is not being reported or documented. There is a need to ensure better collection of this information in order to have a more accurate picture of the state of the efforts on the UWSP campus. As UWSP is an institute of higher education, a focus on students is understandable, however, there is an identified need to also have a focus on employees as related to AODA programming. A comprehensive prevention program would be advisable, that would include both students and employees. Taking a proactive, rather than reactive approach would be of great benefit to both groups.

There have been several recommendations made regarding policy. None of the changes that are related to existing policy are major, and are more to update them to current offices and language. There are some gaps in relation to policy enforcement, particularly as related to the wide variety of sanctions employed, which may indicate a need to take a more unified approach in the process. Policy violation is also an area where there is a need to improve collection of data in order to give an accurate reflection of the challenges and needs of students and employees on the UWSP campus.

Appendix A – Part 86, Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations Compliance Checklist

Appendix B – Biennial Review Taskforce Membership