

2022

HSU Biennial Review of  
Drug and Alcohol Abuse  
Prevention  
Program Report  
October 27, 2022

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## Introduction

The Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) require an institution of higher education (IHE) that receive funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program to provide to its students and employees information to prevent drug and alcohol abuse, and it must also have student drug and alcohol prevention programs. A school that participates in campus-based programs must also have a drug-free awareness program for its employees that includes a notice to them of unlawful activities and the actions the school will take against an employee who violates these prohibitions. Additional information about the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) of 1989 is provided on our [website](#).

Hardin-Simmons University is also required to review the university's alcohol and other drug prevention program effectiveness biennially. A representative from the Financial Aid, Human Resources, and Student Life offices along with their Vice Presidents will make up the Biennial Review Committee and collaborate in October of even-numbered years to assure compliance. The previous meeting of the Biennial Review Committee was on October 8, 2020. The current Biennial Review Committee met Oct.27,2022. Attendees included Dr. Jodie McGaughey, Travis Seekins, Tera Gibson, Stacey Martin, Rode Owen, and Monica Smart.

Regulations require the committee to review requirements to determine compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) by certifying that the university provides an annual written statement to all students/employees that includes standards of conduct, a description of appropriate institutional/local/state/federal sanctions, health risks associated with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use, and available treatment programs. Hardin-Simmons will assure that reliable communication methods are being used and that each notification to students/employees is documented. A Biennial Review report will be prepared and made available upon request. The report will include an evaluation of effectiveness of all AOD programs. The committee will assure that all AOD policies are being consistently enforced and make future recommendations.

## Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) Compliance (webpage)

- <https://www.hsutx.edu/student-life/campus-safety/drug-free-schools-and-communities-act/>. The HSU webpage meets The Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA). The HSU community has access to information regarding HSU standards of conduct, institutional/local/state/federal sanctions regarding alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse, health risks, institutional/local treatment options, and available DFSCA programs. *See website recommendations for updates that were made based on the annual review meeting on October 27, 2022.*

## Annual Notification (Written Statement)

- HSU is required to have an annual distribution to all students, faculty, and staff of information concerning drug and alcohol abuse and the school's prevention program. The notification should include standards of conduct; a description of appropriate sanctions for violation of federal, state, and local law and campus policy; a description of the health risks associated with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use; and a description of available treatment programs. It must be documented that the annual notification reached every student and employee. Additionally, if a new student enrolls after initial distribution or a new employee is hired after initial distribution, the institution must have a documented process for notifying them.

### Student

- HSU was solely relying on the annual Student Consumer Information notification and the student's acknowledgement of receipt of the student handbook via the annual terms of agreement as the official AOD notification. The committee determined this to be inadequate. *See annual notification recommendations for updates that were made based on the annual review meeting on October 27, 2022.*

### Employee

- HSU was solely relying on the annual Consumer Information notification sent to all HSU employees as the official AOD notification. The committee determined this to be inadequate. *See annual notification recommendations for updates that were made based on the annual review meeting on October 27, 2022.*

## Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Programs

### Student

- August 15, 2022, 9am-11am 40 RA's 4 RD's
- Aug 10, 2021, 10am-11am 40 RA's 5 RD's

### Employee

- HSU was not providing a drug-free awareness program. *See program recommendations for updates that were made based on the annual review meeting on October 27, 2022.*

## Biennial Review Distribution

- HSU made available by request the Biennial Review by a statement on our AOD webpage: *To request HSU's Biennial Review of the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program, please contact Stacey Martin, Vice President for Student Life at [smartin@hsutx.edu](mailto:smartin@hsutx.edu).*

- The Financial Aid Office requested additional guidance regarding a requirement to notify the Department when the institution learns of an employee’s conviction under any criminal drug statute. The response from NASFAA regarding notifying the DoE is as follows. *See the following excerpt from 34 CFR 86.103(a): Each IHE that provides the drug prevention program certification required by Sec. 86.3(b) shall, **upon request**, make available to the Secretary and the public a copy of each item required by Sec. 86.100(a) as well as the results of the biennial review required by Sec. 86.100(b).*

## Detecting Violations and Consistent Enforcement of Policy Sanctions

- Resident Director (RD) and Resident Assistants (RA) Health and Wellness room checks in all dorms and apartments throughout the semester.
- On campus police patrol.
- Utilization of Beacon (software) to track violations, policy sanctions and communication.

## Student/Employee Statistics

- Students - As part of this biennial review, the committee reviewed the number of drug and alcohol-related violations and fatalities that occurred on HSU’s campus or as part of any of the school’s activities and that are reported to campus officials. (The effectiveness of a school’s prevention program may be measured by tracking the number of drug- and alcohol-related disciplinary actions, treatment referrals, and incidents recorded by campus police or other law enforcement officials).
- Employees - As part of this biennial review, the committee reviewed the number and type of sanctions that are imposed by the school as a result of drug and alcohol-related violations and fatalities on the school’s campus or as part of any of the school’s activities.

<b>STUDENTS</b>			
Academic Year	Number of Offenses	Outcome/Action	Community Service Assignments
2020-2021	17 (14 Alcohol, 3 Drugs)		13 (11 Alcohol, 2 Drugs)
2021-2022	38 (26 Alcohol, 12 Drugs)	5 Probations (1 Alcohol, 4 Drugs)	17 (10 Alcohol, 7 Drugs)

<b>EMPLOYEES</b>			
Academic Year	Number of Offenses	Outcome/Action	
2020-2021	0	N/A	
2021-2022	0	N/A	

## Strengths and Weaknesses

### Improvements Since 2020

- Dedicated webpage - <https://www.hsutx.edu/student-life/campus-safety/drug-free-schools-and-communities-act/>
- Added a section regarding Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) to our Student Consumer Information notification.

### Recommendations

#### **Annual Notification**

- Student Life will send an email to all enrolled students after census date of each payment period detailing HSU's standards of conduct, a description of appropriate sanctions for violation of federal, state, and local law and campus policy for both illicit alcohol and drugs; a description of the health risks associated with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use; a description of available treatment programs; and a clear statement that HSU will impose disciplinary sanctions for violation of the Standards of Conduct, up to expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution.
- Human Resources will send an email annually to all faculty/staff with detailing HSU's standards of conduct, a description of appropriate sanctions for violation of federal, state, and local law and campus policy for both illicit alcohol and drugs; a description of the health risks associated with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use; a description of available treatment programs; and a clear statement that HSU will impose disciplinary sanctions for violation of the Standards of Conduct, up to expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution.

#### **Programs**

- Student Life will be responsible for sending and documenting receipt of the Annual Acknowledgement for students.
- Student Life will expand the number of AOD programs offered to students and keep a record of all AOD program training, events, and communication.
- Human Resources will be responsible for sending and documenting receipt of the Annual Acknowledgement for faculty and staff.
- Human Resources will require a drug-free awareness (safe colleges) training for each employee annually.

#### **Sanctions**

- Student Life will continue to keep a record of all the drug and alcohol-related violations and fatalities that occur on campus or as part of any of the school's activities and ensure consistency in applying disciplinary sanctions for violations of related AOD policies.
- Human Resources will keep a record of the number and type of sanctions that are imposed by the school on any employee because of drug and alcohol-related violations and fatalities on campus or as part of any of the school's activities and ensure consistency in applying disciplinary sanctions for violations if their related AOD policies.

### **Website**

- Financial Aid will add tobacco to our health risks on the HSU DFSCA webpage.
- Financial Aid will add additional information regarding HSU AOD counseling/treatment services to our DFSCA webpage.
- Financial Aid will update information regarding Local, State, and Federal laws regarding Drugs and Alcohol on our DFSCA webpage.
- Financial Aid will complete the 2022 Biennial Review document and add it to our DFSCA webpage.

### **Other**

- HSU leadership will submit a request to legal counsel to review the HSU DFSCA website, annual notifications, biennial review document, and AOD programs.
- Transition oversight/responsibility of continued implementation of AOD programs, annual notifications, and biennial review from Financial Aid to Student Life.

## Certification

We have reviewed all Drug Free Schools and Campuses regulations and Hardin-Simmons notifications, materials, webpages, and AOD programs for compliance. We acknowledge that we have areas that require improvement and have made necessary recommendations to be implemented immediately. Hardin-Simmons University recognizes both alcohol and drug abuse as potential health, safety, and security problems. The institution expects its students and employees to cooperate in maintaining a campus environment free from the effects of alcohol and other drugs and to comply with this policy.



10/27/2022

Monica Smart, Director of Financial Aid



10/27/2022

Tera Gibson, Director of Human Resources



10/27/2022

Rode Owen, Dean of Students



10/27/2022

Travis Seekins, Vice President for Enrollment Management



10/27/2022

Jodie McGaughey, Vice President for Finance



10/27/2022

Stacey Martin, Vice President for Student Life