



***Wharton County
Junior College***

**Biennial Review
of Wharton County Junior College
Alcohol and Drug Use and Abuse Programs
2020 / 2021**

I. Introduction

The Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) require institutions of higher education (IHE) such as Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) to conduct a biennial review of their alcohol and drug programs and policies. The purpose of this review is to determine program effectiveness and consistency of policy enforcement in order to identify and implement any necessary changes.

The biennial review must include a determination as to:

- The number of drug and alcohol-related violations and fatalities occurring on the campus or as part of WCJC activities that are reported to campus officials in the previous two calendar years; and
- The number and type of sanctions the College imposes on students or employees as a result of such violations or fatalities; and
- Whether sanctions for violations of the applicable standards of conduct pertaining to the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or abuse of alcohol were consistently applied.

A. Biennium Review Process

WCJC uses a variety of methods and tools to conduct the biennial review of its Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program. The various tools used for this biennial review include:

- Student Service records regarding incidents that reported the use or abuse of alcohol or drugs including sanctions and disciplinary action taken.
- Campus Security Office records regarding incidents that reported the use or abuse of alcohol and other drugs including any available information from local law enforcement.
- Human Resource Office records regarding incidents that reported the use or abuse of alcohol and other drugs including sanctions and disciplinary action taken.
- Calendar of events and programs, hosted by Student Service departments.
- Calendar of trainings, hosted by Human Resources Office.

Additional materials reviewed included:

- Student polices related to drug and alcohol use and abuse
- Student Handbook
- Residence Life Procedures and Policies
- Athletic Handbooks
- Employee policies related to drug and alcohol use and abuse
- Employee Handbook
- Faculty Handbook

B. Responsible Offices and Official for Biennial Review

WCJC's commitment to an alcohol and drug free environment is a campus wide effort. The following offices and officials work together to produce the biennial review, which is submitted to the President and Executive Cabinet on a biennial basis. This group of College representatives meets at least annually to conduct the biennial review and review it's outcomes.

- Dean of Human Resources
- Dean of Student Success
- Campus Security Chief
- Residence Life Coordinator
- Director of Counseling and Disability Services
- Director of Campus Life

- Faculty Representative
- Staff Representative

II. Annual Policy Notification Process

To ensure the WCJC community is aware of WCJC Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP), the College implemented procedures to distribute its DAAPP annually and the information is posted on the WCJC.edu website. Policies referencing drug and alcohol use and abuse can be found on the website, in the Student Handbook and in the Employee Handbook.

The WCJC community (faculty, staff and students) will receive an email to their College email account at the beginning of each academic year (September).

2020

- The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention policy was distributed to the campus community via email on 9/14/2020
- The Alcohol Use policy was posted on the College Policy Portal, in the Employee Handbook and in the Student Handbook.

2021

- The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention policy was distributed to the campus community via email on 9/23/2021.
- The Alcohol Use policy was posted on the College Policy Portal, in the Employee Handbook and in the Student Handbook.

III. Enforcement and Consistency of Disciplinary Sanctions

WCJC is an alcohol and drug abuse free campus. The College abides by all alcohol and drug related policies, regulation, and laws and imposes consistent disciplinary sanctions against those students and/or employees who violate the approved policies and laws consistent with local, state, or federal law. Due to the low number of offences records in the past two years, there is insufficient data to determine whether irregularities or inconsistencies were applied in the disciplinary action or sanctions determined.

WCJC strives to handle each offence in a manner in which individuals are treated fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the policies and procedures established and approved by the Board of Trustees. Should a student or employee feel that disciplinary action taken or not taken was unfair or inconsistent with WCJC's policies, they should submit a formal grievance.

A. Students

The data below represents the number of drug and/or alcohol offenses committed by students in 2020 and 2021.

Note: Campus moved on online instruction and Residence Halls closed in March 2020. Limited number of students returned to campus in August 2020, and Residence Halls were limited to Athletes only.

	2020	2021
Sanctions - Alcohol Policy Violations	0	3
Sanctions – Drug Policy Violations	0	0

The following sanctions were assessed regarding alcohol and other drug incidents.

	2020	2021
Safe College Referral	0	3
Housing Contract Terminated – Alcohol	0	0
Housing Contract Terminated – Drugs	0	0
Disciplinary Probation – Alcohol	0	3
Disciplinary Probation – Drugs	0	0

In addition to the standard case resolution process, the Dean of Student Success works with the College Counseling and Disability Services office to formalize a referral process for at-risk students who may be in need of more formal assessments and counseling due to alcohol or drug-related behavior.

B. Employees

The data below represents the number of drug and/or alcohol offenses committed by employees in 2020 and 2021.

	2020	2021	Outcome
Alcohol	0	0	
Drugs	0	0	

C. Campus Security Office

These statistics indicate cases as initially report to Campus Security. Further investigation may reveal the case was unfounded or lacked sufficient evidence to result in the filing of criminal charges. All “Non-Campus Related” cases were removed from campus or handled by local authorities.

2020	Liquor Law Violations		Drug Law Violations	
	Campus Disciplinary Action	Non-Campus Related	Campus Disciplinary Action	Non-Campus Related
On Campus	0	0	0	0
Student Housing **	0	0	0	0
Non-Campus	0	0	0	0
Public Property	0	0	0	0
2021	Campus Disciplinary Action	Non-Campus Related	Campus Disciplinary Action	Non-Campus Related
On Campus	1	0	0	0
Student Housing **	0	0	0	0
Non-Campus	0	0	0	0
Public Property	0	2	0	0

Information based on the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report.
 This report does not track public intoxication. This count is limited to Clery counting standards.
 ** Crimes reported in Student Housing are also included in the On Campus row.

IV. Program Initiatives

Many departments on campus are involved in educating students and employees about the risks of alcohol and drugs, including the Dean of Student Success, Counseling and Disability Services, Residence Life and Human Resources. Below is a summary of College initiatives.

A. Goals / Program Outcomes

- To maintain an alcohol and drug free campus.
- To educate the campus community on general alcohol and drug use and abuse and to learn how to recognize it in their lives.
- To encourage responsible decision making in alcohol related situations.
- To provide fair and consistent application of disciplinary action in regard to campus policy violations.

B. Prevention for Students

- Information Provided on Website
 - Description of health risks associated with alcohol and drugs.
 - Description of applicable sanctions for policy violations.
 - Descriptions of penalties under State of Texas Law.
- Residence Life
 - Residence Life staff receive training each semester on campus and residence life policies and procedures with regard to alcohol and drug use and abuse. They are taught the risks associated with use and abuse, the signs to watch for in their residents and how to assist if they find a resident in trouble.
 - In each hall, there are Lobby Focus Boards on Drugs and Alcohol Awareness (Your Alcohol IQ, Marijuana and Academic Achievement, Binge Drinking, Drinking Violence).
 - All student residents are required to attend a mandatory meeting at the time of move-in. During this meeting, campus and residence life policies, student expectations, and sanctions are reviewed.
 - Presentation Topics – dating violence, alcohol awareness, stress management, drug use and abuse.
- Prevention Programs and Initiatives - Various prevention programs are hosted throughout the year by the Student Success team. Prevention programs in 2020 and 2021 included:
 - Safe Spring Break – safety tips, responsible drinking, bystander intervention were covered at the annual Safe Spring Break activities.
 - National Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week – counselors hosted workshops, put out flyers and offered resources throughout the week. Topics included distracted driving, alcohol consumption, designated drivers, marijuana and the brain, and vaping.
 - Stress Awareness – counselors hosted a number of events and presentations on how to recognize stress and healthy ways to handle stress.
 - Coping with College Series – various topics to help student adopt healthy lifestyles and handle stress.
 - Healthy Relationships – the role of alcohol and drugs in a relationship was addressed.
 - Human Trafficking – the role of alcohol and drugs was addressed.
 - Dating and Domestic Violence Awareness – presentations on how to recognize dating / domestic violence, bystander intervention and the role of alcohol and drugs.

- Letter to Students
 - Annual letter sent by Dean of Student Success to students regarding alcohol, drugs and general safety while traveling for Spring Break.
- Athletics
 - Team meetings are held at the beginning of and throughout each semester. Alcohol and drug use and abuse is addressed in these meetings. Each athlete is required to acknowledge and sign an “Expectations” document, which includes expectations with regard to alcohol and drug use.
- Social Life
 - All events hosted on campus are alcohol-free events, including Varsity athletic events.
- Early Alert Program
 - An Early Alert program has been established for faculty to submit alerts to Counselors if they have concerns about student performance in the classroom. Concerns can include alcohol and / or drug use concerns that are effecting student attendance, performance, concentration, etc. Counselors then work with the faculty on how to best assist the student.

C. Employee Resources

- Information Provided on Website
 - Description of health risks associated with alcohol and drugs.
 - Description of applicable sanctions for policy violations.
 - Descriptions of penalties under State of Texas Law
- Faculty Handbook
 - Provides resources and instruction for faculty who encounter students who may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Presentations / Professional Development
 - Supervisor training for how to handle and recognize employee alcohol and drug use and abuse is conducted by Human Resources upon request.
 - Employees participate in required trainings, hosted through Safe Colleges, annually.
 - New employees receive training during onboarding, “The Drug-Free Workplace: Setting a Standard.”
 - Dean of Student Success presented on Classroom Management and Student Behavior at the 2021 Convocation Professional Development Day. Presentation included information on how to detect and handle students who present for class under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Early Alert Program
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concentration, etc. Counselors then work with the faculty on how to best assist the student.

- TRS Newsletter
 - The Teacher Retirement System of Texas sends out a monthly newsletter via email to their enrollees (approximately 95% of WCJC employees). Each newsletter features articles about healthy lifestyles, statistics, resources, etc. In 2020 and 2021, articles were written specifically about smoking cessation, stress management, anxiety and depression, mental health care, and substance abuse, in addition to the number of articles written about healthy lifestyle and preventative measures.
- ERS Newsletter
 - The Employee Retirement System of Texas hosts Wellness Toolkits and other resources for their enrollees (approximately 95% of WCJC employees). In 2020 and 2021, resources in the Toolkit included information on healthy mindset, stress awareness and mental health awareness. They also hosted a virtual health fair.

V. Assistance Programs for Students and Employees

A. Information and Referral

All members of the campus community are eligible to consult with Counseling Services staff regarding the availability of drug and alcohol abuse assistance programs. Drug and alcohol abuse counseling and rehabilitation program referrals are routinely made to mutual-help organizations, private hospitals, public treatment programs and private practitioners. The College also maintains a collection of resource materials pertinent to issues of drug and alcohol abuse.

B. Individual Counseling for Students

Individual are seen on a short-term basis for assistance with drug or alcohol related problems. A referral will be made for alcohol or drug addictions.

C. Group Counseling

Details regarding a local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous are available in the Counseling Center.

D. Employee Insurance Programs

The Human Resources Department assists employees with information concerning insurance coverage and programs available which provide support, direction, and community resources. All information regarding an individual's request for services remains confidential. The Human Resources Department, nor any other entity at the College, is notified or informed of an employee's choice to receive assistance for drug or alcohol issues, including those who use insurance.

- Connect – Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
- ERS Wellness Program

VI. Summary of Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program – Strengths and Weaknesses

WCJC is in compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Campuses regulations and is committed to having effective alcohol and drug abuse policies. WCJC consistently enforces standards of behavior related to alcohol and drug abuse and distributes the policies, resources and information to students and employees annually.

Strengths

- A. Information is being provided to students in a variety of ways – workshops, email, events, Student Handbook, focus boards.
- B. The College has invested in Safe Colleges, a comprehensive training program that includes topics such as alcohol awareness and abuse, drug awareness and abuse, and bystander intervention.

Weaknesses

- A. Due to COVID, many of the events and in person resources were halted or moved to a virtual platform. Now that students and employees are returning to campus, there is a need to re-establish in person prevention and awareness programming.
- B. Students who enroll after the fall semester are not receiving the annual notification; thus, the recommendation to increase the distribution to the start of the fall and spring terms.
- C. Limited information placed around campus promoting campus safety and alcohol and drug use and abuse and related resources.

VII. Recommendations

- A. Look for new ways to distribute alcohol and drug abuse prevention information and notifications in order increase the likelihood that students and employees will read the information. Considerations should be given to internet platforms such as Facebook, Twitter or other social medial forums.
- B. Add Athletic Director to Biennial Review Committee.
- C. Consider hosting a Safety Week in Fall semester with topics focused on alcohol and drug awareness as well as other safety related topics.
- D. Consider distributing WCJC Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program information each semester, not just the start of the fall semester to ensure those students/employees starting in the spring receive the annual notification.
- E. Add Alcohol and Drug Prevention information to Risk Management Training for clubs and organizations.
- F. Enhance the opportunities for educating WCJC employees about the dangers of drugs and alcohol via the Human Resources office, Campus Security and various health-base and insurance providers.

VIII. Contact Information

Students and employees that would like additional information regarding WCJC's efforts to maintain a drug and alcohol free campus should contact Lindsey McPherson, Dean of Student Success at 979-532-6905 or McPhersonL@wcjc.edu.