

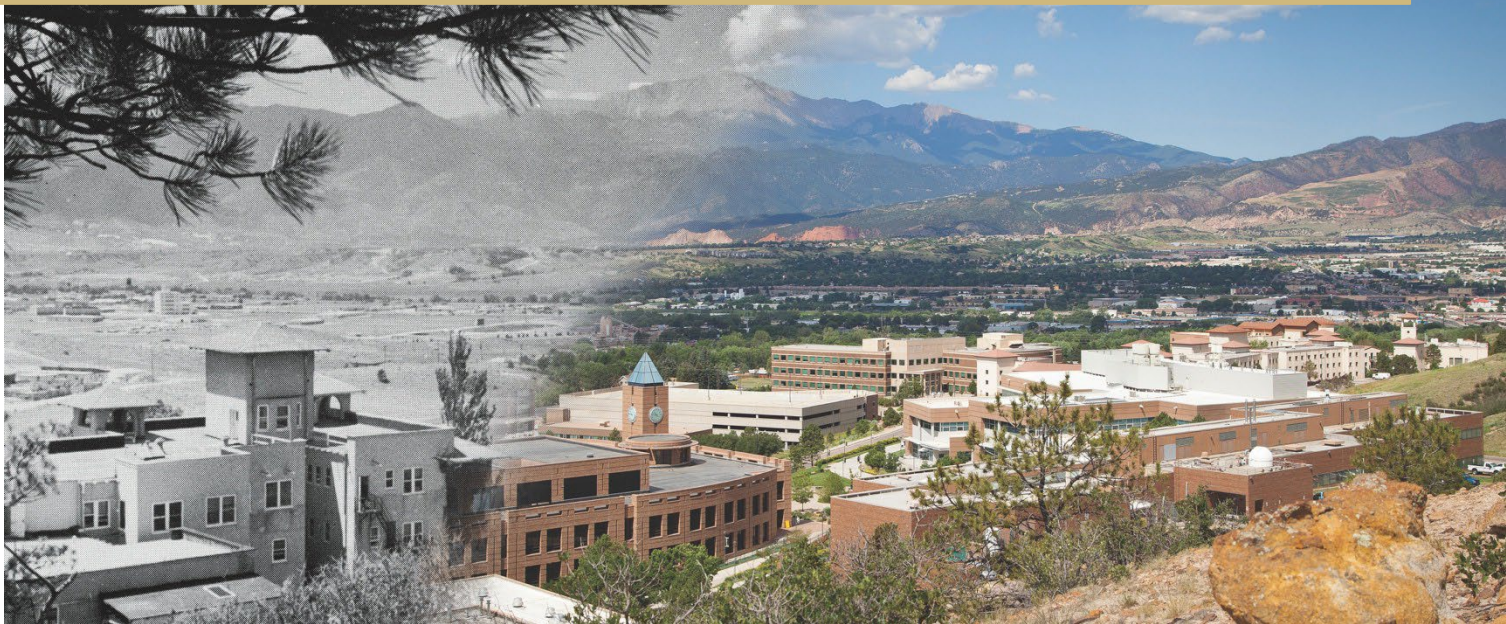


University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

2021 Biennial Review

Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

July 2019-June 2021



**Compiled by the
Office of the Dean of Students**

**Dean of Students,
Amanda Allee**

**Assistant Dean of Students,
Lisa Potoka**

**Prevention and Outreach Manager,
Raymond Fisco**

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Introduction of the Biennial Review

In accordance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA), Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) Part 86, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), as an institution of higher education with federal funding is required to conduct a Biennial Review of all alcohol and drug prevention efforts. The Biennial Review requires the following two objectives be met:

1. To determine alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention program effectiveness by identifying and implementing needed changes through a description of AOD program elements, goals and achievements, strengths and weaknesses, procedures for distributing AOD notifications, copies of policies available to students, and recommendations.
2. To enforce the sanctions fairly and consistently through reviews of past cases and documentation of the efforts to support the standards of conduct.

The following offices provided information through statistics, interviews, and online resources to inform the Biennial Review process:

- Office of the Dean of Students
- UCCS Police
- UCCS Wellness & Recreation Center
- Office of Residence Life
- Human Resources Office
- Office of Student Life

The data collected will be made available online through the Office of the Dean of Students and the Alcohol and Other Drugs websites. Printed copies may be requested from the Office of the Dean of Students.

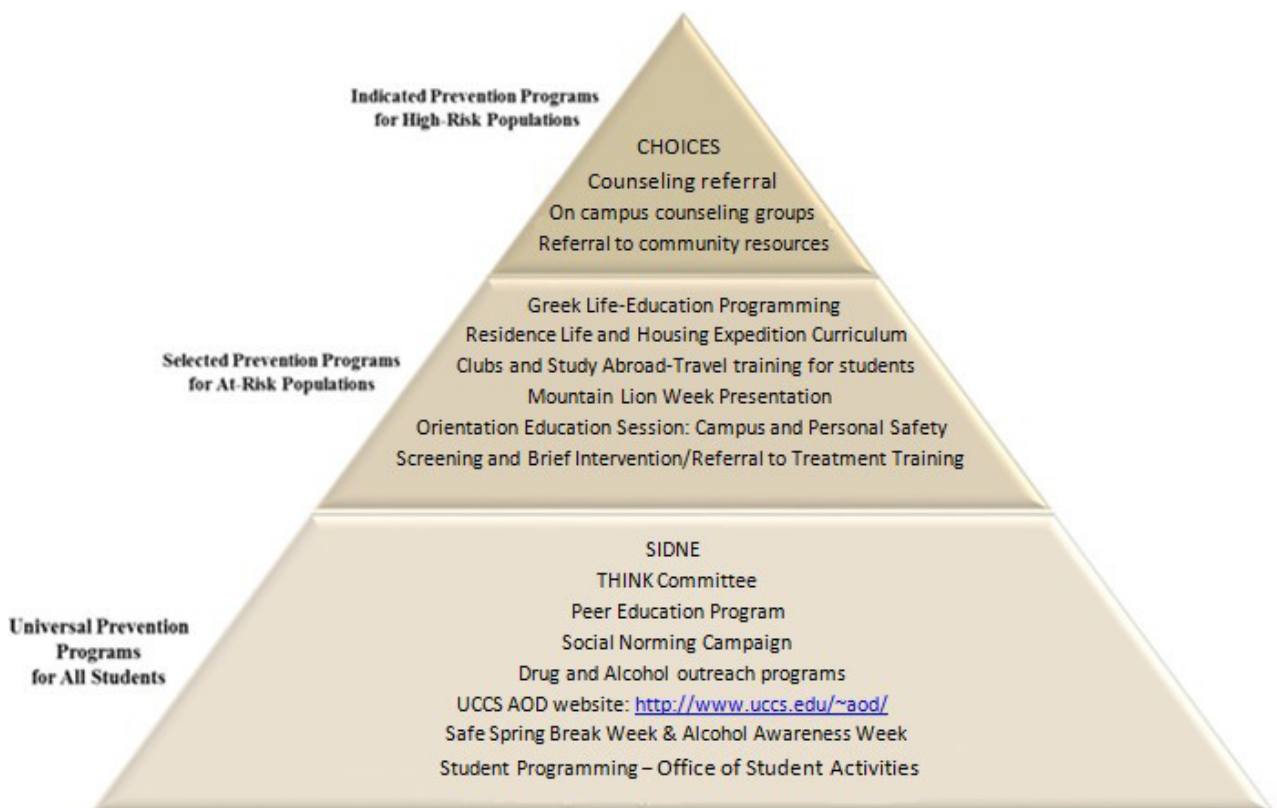
The purpose of this report is to meet the requirements set forth by the DFSCA in conducting a Biennial Review as well as educate the UCCS campus community on alcohol and drug prevention from July 2019 to June 2021.

Objective I. Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming

A. Program Elements, Goals, and Achievements

UCCS utilizes the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Prevention Model for Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Prevention Programming. This model recommends a multi-tier approach focusing on prevention strategies for universal, selective, and indicated populations. In this model, the majority of the University’s prevention efforts focus on primary prevention at the universal level. Prevention strategies provide alternatives to high-risk behavior and educates all students on pro-social behaviors. Prevention strategies for the selective population focus on early intervention and harm reduction for groups of students with identifiable risk-factors, such as housing students and incoming freshmen. The third tier of the prevention model, the indicated group, focuses on those who have been referred to judicial affairs for alcohol or drug policy violations.

The figure below indicates where programming efforts fall within the tier system:



AOD prevention program activities implemented from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021 by multiple UCCS departments are described below:

- CHOICES¹
 - ALCOHOL: 90 minute peer-facilitated class given 1-2 times per month during the fall and spring semesters for students who were referred by Residence Life and/or the Office of the Dean of Students for a first time alcohol violation
 - MARIJUANA: 60 minute facilitated one-on-one meeting offered on an as needed-basis during the fall and spring semesters for students who were referred by Residence Life and/or the Office of the Dean of Students for a first-time marijuana violation
 - ALTERNATIVES: 90 minute facilitated one-on-one meeting offered on as a needed-bases during the fall and spring semester for students who were referred by Residence Life and/or the Office of the Dean of Students for a second alcohol or second marijuana violation.
 - GOAL: Alcohol and marijuana abuse prevention and harm reduction program for college students involving reflective journaling and discussion to guide students to make informed decisions and reduce their risk and harm
- Counseling and Community Referrals
 - The UCCS Mental Health Services offers a one-time counseling assessment for students who have repeat alcohol or drug violations. They also offer continuing counseling services and community referrals if deemed necessary through the assessment process
 - GOAL: To conduct a mental health threat assessment and if needed develop a prevention or treatment plan which could include follow-up counseling sessions, support groups, or community referrals
- Campus and Personal Safety Presentation
 - 10-15 minute presentation during Freshman and Transfer Student Orientations
 - Online presentations offered to students who cannot attend in-person orientation
 - Addresses overall campus safety for students, drug and alcohol awareness, sexual harassment, assault prevention, and emergency preparedness
 - GOAL: To educate students on local laws, UCCS policies, and the Student Code of Conduct
- Residence Life
 - Implementation of Expedition Curriculum
 - Focus on intentional interactions through floor meetings, bulletin boards, community activities/meetings and village wide programs that outline specific learning outcomes
 - Learning outcomes: Belonging, Individuality, Citizenship and Growth
 - Resident Assistants and residents motivated to attend events related to alcohol and drugs
 - GOAL: Guiding students in knowing and accepting community standards and understanding self-care strategies

¹ <http://www.uccs.edu/aod/sanctions.html>

- Safe Spring Break Week
 - Week-long campaign of events prior to spring break to provide education about drug and alcohol issues, sexual health, and general health and travel safety
 - GOAL: To encourage college students to have a safe spring break by remembering safety tips about impaired driving, alcohol abuse, road safety, sun exposure, and decision-making regarding sexual activity and health
- National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week Campaign
 - Programs/events, forums and educational initiatives aimed at raising awareness of alcohol issues on campus.
 - GOAL: Bringing attention to the serious public health issues posed by excessive drinking among college students
- FATAL VISION® Goggles
 - FATAL VISION® Goggles simulate sight impairment for three levels of estimated BAC (less than .06, .07 to .10+, and .17 to .20+) in both daylight and nighttime conditions
 - GOAL: Demonstrate the concept of impairment and the dangers of alcohol and drug misuse to students
- #SmartMoveUCCS Presentation²
 - 90-minute presentation on the first two days of Freshmen Seminar classes, Gateway Days. This presentation focuses on responsible drinking, consent, sexual misconduct, healthy relationships, and discrimination and harassment.
 - GOAL: Educate all incoming freshman on UCCS policies and procedures
- Club and Study Aboard Travel Training
 - Pre-trip meeting required for all club members that will be traveling
 - Review of intent to travel to discuss trip details, funding, alcohol and substance use policy, discrimination and harassment policy, sexual misconduct and risk management
 - GOAL: Meeting to discuss travel arrangements and university policy and expectations

² <https://dos.uccs.edu/smartmove>

- Peer Education Program
 - Students trained in topic areas of: alcohol and drug awareness, health and wellness promotion, and sexual assault & interpersonal violence
 - Empowering students to promote wellness on campus through evidence-based programs and events to share knowledge with their peers
 - GOAL: A diverse group of students who work in conjunction with other university services to deliver preventative and holistic programs and events to their fellow peers
 - Glass Half Full
 - 8-10 week long group therapy
 - Yoga therapy and discussion
 - GOAL: a harm reduction group to help students cut down on their substance use and minimize the impact of their use
 - #SmartMoveUCCS Escape Room
 - Designed to provide a fun and safe experience for students on campus
 - Hosted in 2019, 2020 and 2021
 - GOAL: Prevention and outreach for the Dean of Students Office to prevent against risky behaviors by providing alternative programming for students to enjoy.
 - Additional activities for alcohol and drug awareness hosted on-campus:
 - Water Pong Tournament, Trivia Nights, Mario Kart Tournament, Ray's Awareness Tabling, Mocktails
 - Greek Life and Athletics educational programs (held once per semester)
 - The Student Life Office hosts events throughout the year to provide a fun alternative to drinking. Preview Days, Welcome Week, Homecoming Week, and ROAR Daze all feature multiple alcohol-free social events held during strategic times of the year to curb high-risk drinking behavior
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B. Program Strengths and Weakness

Strengths

- Continuation of consistent/yearly programming initiatives
- CHOICES Courses
 - Participants indicated the program was effective in increasing awareness of alcohol risks and facts surrounding drinking⁵
- Campus involvement with the Colorado Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Educators
 - Awarded grant money through CADE Cohort Scholarship for 2018-2020
- Continuation of #SmartMoveUCCS messaging
- Continual presence and awareness at Freshman/Transfer Orientations with interactive presentation that educates incoming students on UCCS policies, Good Samaritan Law, and getting help for others
- Strong communication and strong collaborative relationships between campus partners

Weaknesses

- COVID-19 impacts on the number of programs hosted and the number of students attending programs
 - Unable to transition programs into a virtual platform
- Need for increased AOD programming and awareness with Greek community

C. Program Threats and Recommendations

Program threats and recommendations were also compiled by the THINK committee.

Threats

- Continued growth of campus population
- Increase in residential student population
- Potential increase of off-campus parties
- Growing usage of marijuana
- Prevalence of mixing/combining drugs [typically alcohol with another substance]

⁵ Course post-test and satisfaction surveys

⁶ Calculated based on reported repeat offenders during the period of review.

Recommendations

- Partner with community designated driver/safe ride programs
- Maintain collaborative relationships and communication with privately-owned housing communities
- Enhance parental involvement in addressing issues of alcohol and other drug abuse by reminding parents of the importance of continuing to discuss expectations with their student about alcohol and other drug use/non-use
- Continue to provide programs that focus on alcohol while also enhancing efforts to address marijuana and other drug use/abuse
- Continued coordination with Residence Life Office of student conduct procedures

Objective II. Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Compliance

A. Distribution Procedures

1. Annual Notifications

In order to comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, Part 86, procedures for distributing annual Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) notifications to all enrolled UCCS students and all employees are as follows:

Electronic:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emails are sent to all students (off-campus, abroad, and online) and all employees (full-time, part-time, off-campus, and online) at the beginning of fall and spring semesters• AOD notifications and policies are publicly accessible online (See Objective I. C. 2.)
Paper:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resident students receive the Resident Handbook, which contains the AOD policies• Posters with substance-free events are placed around campus• Course catalogs for each semester include notifications and policies in brief
Presentation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations involving AOD policies are given to first year students and transfer students at orientations• Presentations at various campus events

2. Campus Policies

Many of the policies listed below are from the Alcohol and Other Drug UCCS website, which was created and is maintained by the Office of the Dean of Students. The AOD website includes information on:

- University policies
- Health effects information
- Resources and services available on and off campus
- Penalties and sanctions for misuse of alcohol and other drugs

All policies including AOD resources and legalities:

Student Code of Conduct:

<https://dos.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1566/files/2021-08/Code%20of%20Conduct%202021-2022.pdf> *(Page 5 of document)*

Campus Alcohol Policy #100-003:

<https://aod.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1956/files/inline-files/100-003.pdf>

Drug Free Workplace Act:

<https://aod.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1956/files/inline-files/100-014.pdf>

Financial Aid Drug Convictions Policy:

<https://finaid.uccs.edu/policies/drug>

Human Resources—State of Colorado Substance Abuse Policy:

<http://policylibrary.colostate.edu/attachments/738.Universal%20Policy%20Drug%20and%20Alcohol%20Policy%20for%20State%20Employees.pdf>

Public Safety Drug and Alcohol Policy:

(Part A): <https://aod.uccs.edu/resources>

(Part B): <https://aod.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1956/files/inline-files/100-014.pdf>

Athletic Department AOD Intramural Sports Policy:

<https://recwellness.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj2336/files/inline-files/Intramural%20Sports%20Participant%20Handbook%202021-22.pdf> *(Page 18 of document)*

Athletic Department AOD Club Sports Policy:

<https://recwellness.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj2336/files/2021-08/ClubSportsHandbook2021-22.v2.pdf>
(Page 22 of document)

Athletic Department Alcohol and Other Drug Testing Policy:

<https://aod.uccs.edu/resources>

**Alcoholic Beverages and Substance Abuse Policy—University Housing
(Starting on Page 5 of document):**

<https://residence.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1361/files/2021-08/2021-2022-Resident-Handbook.pdf>

B. Enforcement of Campus Policies and Case Documentation

1. Campus Policy Enforcement

Campus Enforcement

UCCS Police Officers routinely patrol campus to ensure all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors are complying with state and federal laws as well as University policies. The department maintains strict internal guidelines for ensuring all parts of campus are being checked on a regular basis. The UCCS Police also employs security officers in addition to their police officers to provide additional monitoring of high-risk areas. These security officers have direct access to UCCS police dispatch, so they can quickly report any suspicious activity.

Housing Enforcement

In addition to regular foot patrols by UCCS Police and security guards, Resident Assistants (RAs) are required to complete rounds through all of the housing areas to monitor for policy violations. RAs are provided with training on AOD policies and enforcement prior to the fall and spring semesters. Additionally, three full-time professional staff members reside in the residence halls, and there is always a student staff member and a professional staff member on-call after hours for incidents occurring in housing areas.

Student Conduct Process

The Student Conduct process is initiated when a Residence Life Incident Report, a Police Report, or a written complaint with sufficient information is received by either the Dean of Students Office or the Office of Residence Life. Upon receipt of the complaint or report, the judicial officer may conduct an investigation to decide whether there is substance to the allegations, whether the allegations fall within the jurisdiction of this policy, and whether conduct proceedings should occur. The student is notified and the case is heard according to the guidelines provided by the Student Code of Conduct.

If the student is found responsible, sanctions imposed for misconduct must be based upon a consideration of all the circumstances in a particular case. First and second offenses may result in the following: a) Parental notification; b) Probation; c) Attendance of a University sponsored alcohol awareness class; d) Substance abuse assessment referral; e) Community service; f) Written educational assignments. Third or subsequent offenses may result in suspension or expulsion.

Mitigating and aggravating circumstances are considered in the case, and repeated violations are likely to result in progressively more severe sanctions. Sanctioning of alcohol and drug violations may be more severe if the incident includes any of the following aggravating factors: public intoxication, provision of alcohol/drugs to minors, driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs, damage to property, and/or obstruction of a peace officer or failure to cooperate with a University official. Sanctioning may also be more severe if the violation is accompanied by other violations of the Student Code of Conduct or multiple violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

All conduct cases are managed and tracked through Student Conduct software. Cases are reviewed annually by the Dean of Students, Director of Residence Life, and the UCCS Chief of Police to ensure fair and consistent enforcement of sanctions by hearing officers.

During this time period, the Office of the Dean of Student coordinated with the Office of Residence Life on the student conduct process for standardization of process in consistency of adjudication and sanctioning. Training is conducted at the beginning of every Fall semester for all conduct officers.

Complete information on the UCCS Student Conduct process can be found at:

<https://dos.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1566/files/inline-files/Code%20of%20Conduct%202020-2021.pdf>

2. Case Documentation and Statistics

In order to measure consistency in enforcement of AOD offenses, the Biennial Review for the DFSCA requires institutions of higher education to document each case and treat each case with similar repercussions.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, data for “Violations” recorded and “Violation Case Dispositions” recorded between July 2019 through June 2021 are accessible via the UCCS Annual Security & Fire Safety Report at asr.uccs.edu. Cases reported to the UCCS Police can be viewed on the UCCS Police Crime and Fire Log at police.uccs.edu/blotter.

Judicial Sanctions

The table below indicates the number of students assigned to the following sanctions for drug or alcohol offenses from July 2017 to June 2019. Students may have been assigned to complete more than one sanction.

	July-December 2019	January-June 2020	July-December 2020	January-June 2021
Alcohol CHOICES Class	82	10	73	12
Marijuana CHOICES Class	24	3	6	5
Written Warning	123	16	66	34
Probation/Formal Reprimand	13	13	27	9
Housing Exclusion	1	2	1	1
Suspension	0	2	1	0
Other Sanctions	62	35	22	17

References and Resources

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