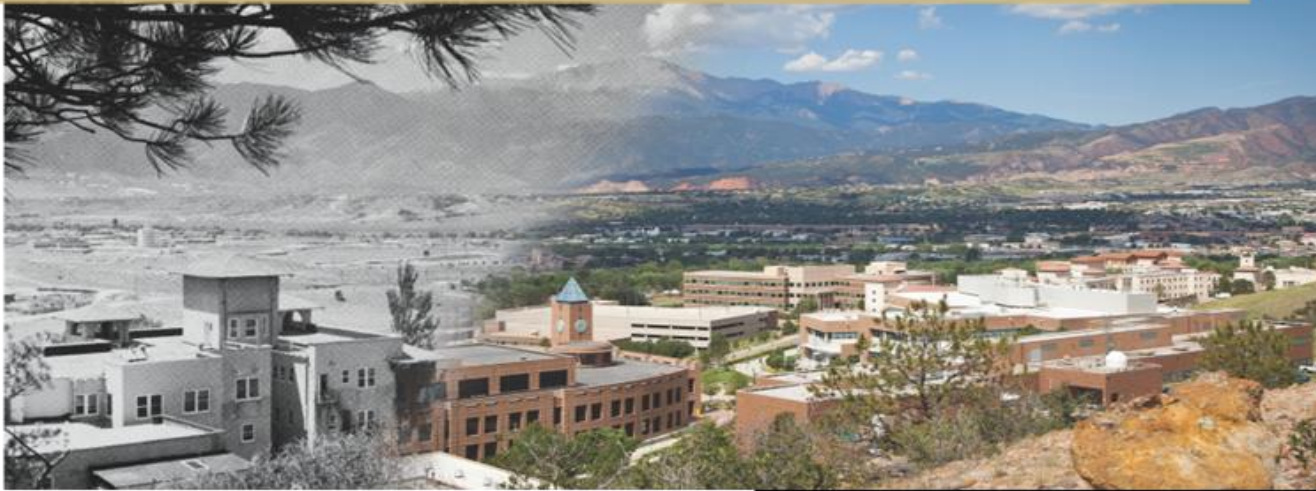


# 2023 Biennial Review

Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act  
July 2021-June 2023



Compiled by the Office of  
the Dean of Students

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# Introduction of the Biennial Review

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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.

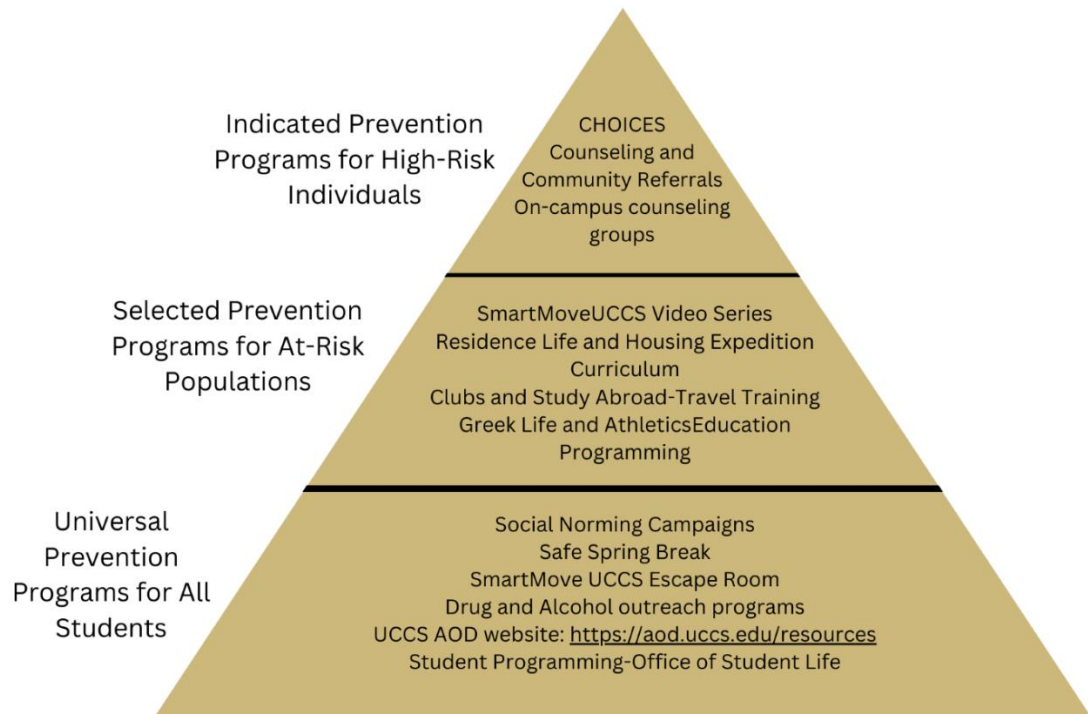
The purpose of this report is to meet the requirements set forth by the DFSCA in conducting a Biennial Review as well as educate the UCCS campus community on alcohol and drug prevention from July 2021 to June 2023.

# 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 the Office of the Dean of Students 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, 2021, to June 30, 2023, by multiple UCCS departments are described below:

- CHOICES'

- ALCOHOL: 90-minute peer-facilitated class given 1-3 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 peer-facilitated class offered 1-3 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 marijuana violation
- ALTERNATIVES: 90-minute facilitated one-on-one meeting offered on an as a needed bases 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 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
- Challenging Your Relationship with Substances
  - Group therapy sessions
  - GOAL: a harm reduction group to provide students with skills and discussion to help cut down on their drug and alcohol use and minimize the impact of their use
- SmartMoveUCCS Video Series<sup>2</sup>
  - Four-part video series shown on the first two days of Freshmen Seminar classes, Gateway Days. These videos focus on responsible drinking, consent, sexual misconduct, healthy relationships, discrimination and harassment, and bystander intervention
  - GOAL: Educate all incoming freshman on UCCS policies and procedures, the Student Code of Conduct, and local laws
- 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

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1. <https://aod.uccs.edu/sanctions>  
 2. <https://dos.uccs.edu/smartmove>

- 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
- Safe Spring Break
  - Campaigns prior to spring break that provide education about drug and alcohol safety, sexual health, and general health, travel safety, and sun exposure.
  - GOAL: To encourage college students to have a safe spring break by remembering safety tips about alcohol safety, marijuana safety, sun exposure, and decision-making regarding sexual activity and health
- “Have a Little Pot”
  - Campaign focused on marijuana education while providing students with potted succulents
  - GOAL: Provide marijuana education related to laws, policies, and tips for safe consumption
- SmartMoveUCCS Escape Room
  - Designed to provide a fun and safe experience for students on campus
  - Hosted in 2021, and 2022
  - GOAL: Prevention and outreach for the Dean of Students Office to prevent risky behaviors by providing alternative programming for students to enjoy
- 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
- Additional activities for alcohol and drug awareness hosted on-campus:
  - Wellness Wagons are held throughout the fall and spring semesters and driven to popular spots on campus as an additional program element
  - Greek Life and Athletics educational programs (held once per semester)
  - The Office of Student Life hosts events throughout the fall and spring semesters that provide a fun alternative to drinking. Clyde’s Kickoff Week, Disorientation Week, Homecoming Programming, Halloweekend Programming, Winter Welcome Week, and ROAR Daze all feature multiple alcohol-free social events held during strategic times of the year to curb high-risk drinking behavior

## 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 drinking<sup>3</sup>

- Campus involvement with the Colorado Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Educators (CADE)
  - Awarded grant money through CADE Cohort Scholarship for Fall 2022- Spring 2023
- 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**

### **Threats**

- Continued growth of campus population
- Increase in residential student population
- Lack of student socialization throughout COVID-19
- Potential increase of off-campus parties
- Increase in fentanyl overdose deaths in El Paso County<sup>4</sup>
- Prevalence of mixing/combining drugs [typically alcohol with another substance]

### **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

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<sup>3</sup> Course post-test and satisfaction surveys

<sup>4</sup> <https://epc-assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2024/05/Community-Health-Assessment-19.pdf>

## Objective II. Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Compliance

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### 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
  - 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 II. B. 2.)
  - Resident students have access to the Resident Handbook, which contains the AOD policies
- Paper:
  - Posters with substance-free events are placed around campus
  - Course catalogs for each semester include notifications and policies in brief
- Presentation:
  - 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 community service officers, 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 hearing 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 or marijuana 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 and Spring semester for all conduct officers.

Complete information on the UCCS Student Conduct process can be found at: [Student Conduct | Office of the Dean of Students \(uwcs.edu\)](https://uwcs.edu/student-conduct)

## 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 2021 through June 2023 are accessible via the UCCS Annual Security & Fire Safety Report at [Annual Security & Fire Safety Report | Annual Security Report \(uwcs.edu\)](https://uwcs.edu/annual-security-report). Cases reported to the UCCS Police can be viewed on the UCCS Police Crime and Fire Log at [police.uwcs.edu/blotter](https://police.uwcs.edu/blotter).

### Violations Recorded

From July 2021 - June 2023 there were 262 cases reported by the UCCS Police involving alcohol and/or drug misuse. The table below indicates the type of case and number of cases for each 6-month period during this time. Cases may have involved multiple individuals.

	July – December 2021	January – June 2022	July – December 2022	January – June 2023
<b>Alcohol Referral</b>	38	37	36	46
<b>Alcohol Arrest</b>	5	18	7	3
<b>Drug Referral</b>	12	23	5	15
<b>Drug Arrest</b>	5	9	1	2

## Violation Case Dispositions

The table below indicates the outcomes of the cases reported to the UCCS Police during this two-year period. Because cases may have involved multiple individuals, more than one outcome may have occurred with the case.

	July – December 2021	January – June 2022	July – December 2022	January – June 2023
<b>Case Open</b> - The case is still being investigated	17	38	34	34
<b>Case Open Inactive</b> - The case is left open pending information that would allow the investigation to continue.	91	70	120	77
<b>Case Closed by Arrest</b> - The suspect(s) in the case have been identified and have been either summoned into court or booked into jail.	43	44	32	34
<b>Case Closed Unfounded</b> - The report of a crime has been unsubstantiated through investigation.	2	3	3	4
<b>Case Closed by Referral</b> - The subject(s) in the case have been issued verbal warnings for their actions and referred to the appropriate university authority.	28	27	24	39
<b>Case Closed Exceptionally</b> - The victim in the case has chosen not to file charges against the suspect.	0	0	2	0
<b>Case Closed</b> - All appropriate action in the case has been taken and has not resulted in an arrest or referral.	152	127	208	160

## Judicial Sanctions

The table below indicates the number of students assigned to the following sanctions for drug or alcohol offenses from July 2021 - June 2023. Students may have been assigned to complete more than one sanction.

	July – December 2021	January – June 2022	July – December 2022	January – June 2023
<b>Alcohol CHOICES Class</b>	36	34	28	45
<b>Marijuana CHOICES Class</b>	10	17	10	13
<b>Written Warning</b>	131	67	47	69
<b>Probation/Formal Reprimand</b>	24	27	9	15
<b>Housing Exclusion</b>	1	5	0	0
<b>Suspension</b>	1	1	0	0
<b>Other Sanctions</b>	90	42	13	39

## References and Resources

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