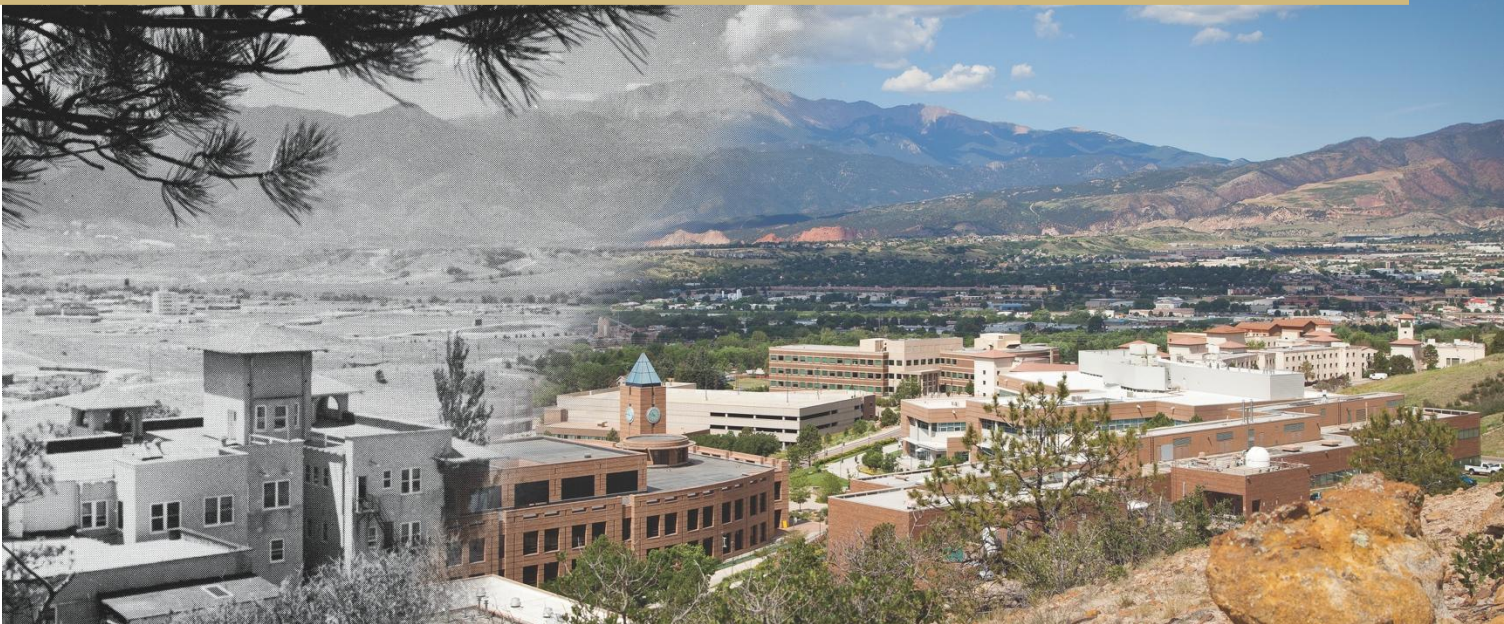


# 2025 Biennial Review

Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

July 2023-June 2025



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 Drugs (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 and Housing
- 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.

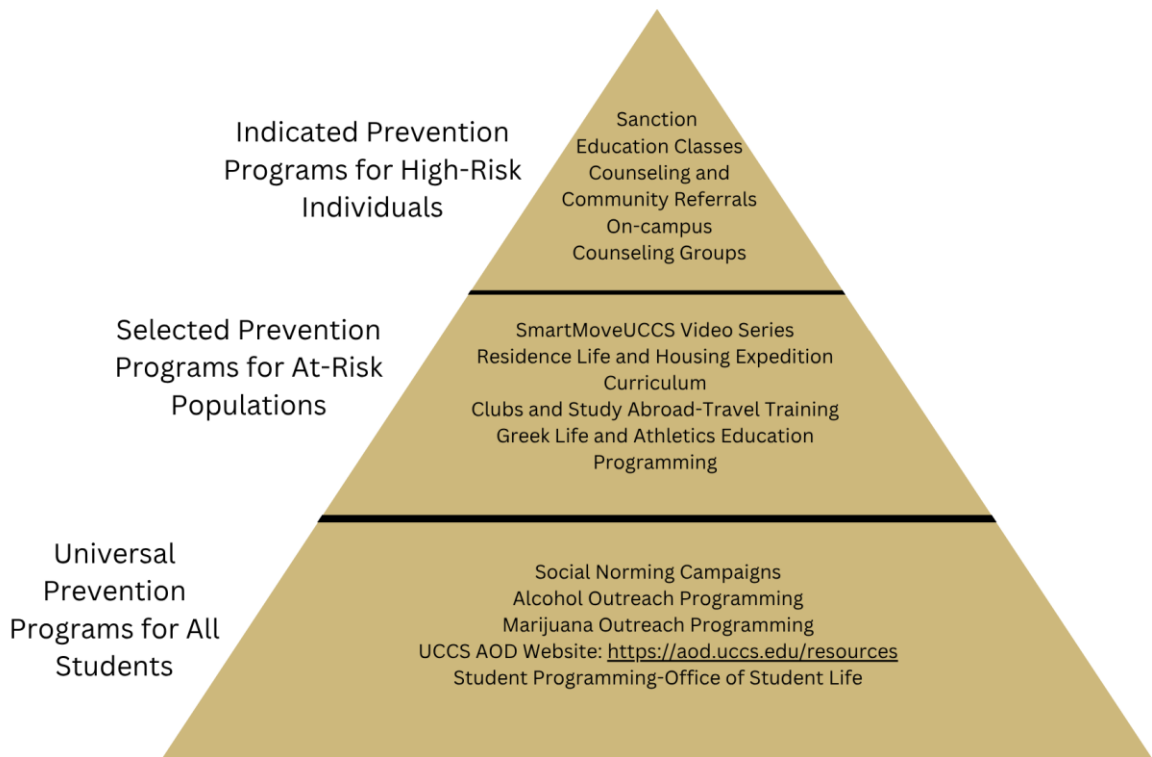
The purpose of this report is to meet the requirements set forth by the DFSCA in conducting a Biennial Review as well as educate the UCCS campus community on alcohol and drug prevention from July 2023 to June 2025.

# Objective I. Alcohol and Other Drugs 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 Drugs (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, 2023, to June 30, 2025, by multiple UCCS departments are described below:

- Sanction Education
  - Alcohol Level 1: 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 Housing and/or the Office of the Dean of Students for a first-time alcohol violation
  - Marijuana Level 1: 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 Housing and/or the Office of the Dean of Students for a first-time marijuana violation
  - Alcohol Level 2 & Marijuana Level 2: 90-minute facilitated one-on-one meeting offered on an as needed bases during the fall and spring semesters for students who were referred by Residence Life and Housing 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 repeated 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>
  - Six-part video series shown on the first two days of Gateway Program classes, Gateway Days. These videos focus on responsible drinking, consent, sexual misconduct, healthy relationships, discrimination and harassment, and bystander intervention
  - GOAL: Educate all incoming first-year students on UCCS policies and procedures, the Student Code of Conduct, and local laws
- Residence Life & Housing
  - 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

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1 <https://aod.uccs.edu/sanctions>

2 <https://dos.uccs.edu/smartmove>

- 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
- Club and Study Abroad Travel Training
  - Pre-trip meeting required for all club members that will be traveling abroad
  - 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
- Harm Reduction Programming
  - Alcohol programming held in either the fall or spring semester that focus on educating students about the impacts and laws of alcohol usage
  - Marijuana programming held in either the fall or spring semester that focus on educating students about the impacts and laws of marijuana usage
- Additional Activities for Alcohol and Drug Awareness Hosted On-Campus:
  - Wellness Wagons (golf carts) are driven to popular spots on campus throughout the semester for additional programming
  - 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 and informative 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
- Sanction Education Courses
- 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 tabling initiatives that educate incoming students on UCCS policies, Good Samaritan Law, and getting support for others

- Strong communication and strong collaborative relationships between campus partners

### **Weaknesses**

- Need for increased integration of AOD programming and awareness with Greek community
- Limited reach due to competing priorities for students, such as work or living off campus
- Limited staffing impacts the ability to research best practices, capacity to hold AOD programs, collection and assessment of data

## **C. Program Threats and Recommendations**

### **Threats**

- Decreased state funding for AOD programming
- Continued decrease of campus population
- Decrease in residential student population
- Continued lack of student socialization post COVID-19
- Increase of off-campus, unaffiliated activities
- Competition of priorities between academics, extra curriculars, and the wide array of campus programming
- Rise of mixing fentanyl with other drugs in El Paso County<sup>3</sup>
- Prevalence of mixing/combining drugs [typically alcohol with another substance]
- Increased difficulty detecting certain behaviors such as, the use of edibles and legalization of recreational marijuana

### **Recommendations**

- Maintain collaborative relationships and communication with key campus partners to ensure meaningful programming
- Apply for additional funding through one-time and sustainable revenue sources
- Increase the interactivity and relatability of programming and social norming campaigns
- 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 and Housing Office on student conduct procedures

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<sup>3</sup> [https://epc-assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/Remediated\\_EPCCO-2024-Annual-Report.pdf](https://epc-assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/Remediated_EPCCO-2024-Annual-Report.pdf)

## Objective II. Alcohol and Other Drugs 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 Drugs (AOD) notifications to all enrolled UCCS students and all employees are as follows:

- Electronic
  - 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
  - GPS Gateway Handouts
- Presentation:
  - Presentations at various campus events
  - Tabling involving AOD policies are presented to first year and transfer students

#### 2. Campus Policies

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

- University policies
- Outcomes and sanctions for misuse of alcohol and other drugs
- Information on health effects
- Resources and services available on and off campus

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 6 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:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B3PM0Z7LHftRPF565r7rAJRSM0SnlBM-/view>

**University Drug and Alcohol Resources and Policies:**

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

(Part B): <https://aod.uccs.edu/policy>

**Athletic Department AOD Intramural Sports Policy:**

<https://recwellness.uccs.edu/sites/default/files/2024-08/IntramuralSportsParticipantHandbook2024-25.pdf> *(Page 18-19 of document)*

**Athletic Department AOD Club Sports Policy:**

<https://recwellness.uccs.edu/sites/default/files/2024-08/ClubSportsHandbook2024-25.pdf>  
*(Page 20 of document)*

**Athletic Department Alcohol and Other Drug Testing Policy:**

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

**Alcoholic Beverages and Substance Abuse Policy—University Housing:**

<https://residence.uccs.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/2024-2025%20Resident%20Handbook.pdf>

*(Page 11-12 of document)*

## 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 patrolled on a regular basis. The UCCS Police also employs campus service officers in addition to police officers to provide additional monitoring of high-risk areas. These campus service 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, four 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 submitted complaint with sufficient information is received by either the Office of the Dean of Students or the Office of Residence Life and Housing. 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, providing 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 or designee to ensure fair and consistent enforcement of sanctions by hearing officers.

During this time period (July 2023 to June 2025), the Office of the Dean of Students coordinated training with the Office of Residence Life and Housing to centralize the conduct process to ensure 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 \(uccs.edu\)](#)

## **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.

Additional data for “Violations” recorded during this time period are accessible via the UCCS Annual Security & Fire Safety Report at [Annual Security & Fire Safety Report | Annual Security Report \(uccs.edu\)](#). Cases reported to the UCCS Police can be viewed on the UCCS Police Crime and Fire Log at [police.uccs.edu/blotter](#).

### 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 2023	January – June 2024	July – December 2024	January – June 2025
<b>Case Open</b> - The case is still being investigated	28	13	19	12
<b>Case Open Inactive</b> - The case is left open pending information that would allow the investigation to continue.	93	47	45	39
<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.	18	14	4	3
<b>Case Closed Unfounded</b> - The report of a crime has been unsubstantiated through investigation.	5	4	2	5
<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.	19	17	17	11
<b>Case Closed Exceptionally</b> - The victim in the case has chosen not to file charges against the suspect.	3	0	2	2
<b>Case Closed</b> - All appropriate action in the case has been taken and has not resulted in an arrest or referral.	146	113	135	114

## Judicial Sanctions

The table below indicates the number of students assigned to the following sanctions for drug or alcohol offenses from July 2023 - June 2025. Students may have been assigned to complete more than one sanction.

	July – December 2023	January – June 2024	July – December 2024	January – June 2025
<b>Alcohol Level 1 Class</b>	36	29	28	15
<b>Marijuana Level 1 Class</b>	9	12	2	2
<b>Written Warning</b>	64	59	32	29
<b>Probation/Formal Reprimand</b>	20	26	11	9
<b>Housing Exclusion</b>	0	1	0	3
<b>Suspension</b>	2	2	1	2
<b>Other Sanctions</b>	43	35	37	22

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