

Southern Methodist University
Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (EDGAR Part 86)
Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Certification Statement

Southern Methodist University hereby certifies that it has adopted and implemented comprehensive alcohol and other drug prevention programs for both its students and employees. These programs are designed to meet the requirements set forth in the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (EDGAR Part 86) and include the following minimum components:

Annual Distribution of Information

Each year, the university distributes essential information to every employee and to each student who is enrolled for academic credit courses, except those pursuing only continuing education units. This annual distribution contains:

- Standards of conduct that prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on university property or as part of any university activities.
- A description of the applicable legal sanctions under local, state, or federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol.
- An explanation of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.
- Details regarding any drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, or re-entry programs available to employees or students.
- A clear statement that the institution will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees (consistent with state and federal law), along with a description of those sanctions. Sanctions may include expulsion, termination of employment, referral for prosecution, and completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program.

Biennial Review Requirements

The institution conducts a biennial review of its comprehensive alcohol and other drug prevention program. This review is designed to:

- Determine the effectiveness of the program and implement changes to improve policies and practices as needed.
- Ensure that disciplinary sanctions for violations are consistently enforced.

Southern Methodist University



K.C. Mmeje, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs
October 31, 2025

Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (Part 86) Compliance Report

Biennial Review: June 2023 - May 2025

Prepared By: The Office of Wellbeing Education Date: 10/31/2025



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I. Introduction

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) and the Department of Education's General Administrative Regulations (Edgar Part 86) requires higher education institutions to conduct a biennial review of their alcohol and other drugs education and prevention programs. Southern Methodist University is required to distribute information regarding its substance misuse education and prevention programs to explore the benefits and effectiveness and consistency within the disciplinary sanctions.

Substance misuse impacts the wellbeing of students and safety of the campus community as well as academic engagement. The biennial review process provides SMU the opportunity to closely examine its AOD (alcohol and other drugs) education and prevention programs. Attention is given not only to what is working but also areas for improvement.

II. Biennial Review Process

The Office of Wellbeing Education took lead on this review process that included identifying key members, collecting data, reviewing previous reports, completing a SWOT analysis, developing recommendations, and the final creation of the report. The campus partners included in this report include:

- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards
- SMU Police Department
- Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Dr. Bob Smith Health Center
- Human Resources
- The Office of Student Advocacy and Support
- Office of the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs

III. Annual Policy Notification Process

As part of the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989, Southern Methodist University delivers annual notification to all students and employees of the University's policy on alcohol and substance abuse, consequences of policy violations, health risks and legal sanctions, as well as community resources for individuals seeking treatment for substance abuse problems.

The policy can be found below:

<https://www.smu.edu/studentaffairs/wellbeing-education/alcohol-otherdrugs/drug-free-act>

An annual notification was provided to all faculty, staff, and students during the review process through 1) email distribution; 2) new hire orientation; and 3) Stampede (new student orientation) to ensure notification to the entire campus community.

IV. Prevalence Rate and Trends

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

Number of Incidents by Type

Type	June 2023 – May 2024	June 2024 – May 2025
All Alcohol	278	280
Alcohol (Responsible)	183	201
All Drugs	45	31
Drug (Responsible)	17	23
Call for Help Cases	31	27
Alcohol Call for Help	29	26
Drug Call for Help	2	0
Both Alcohol and Drug Call for Help	0	1

SMU Police Department Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) Report Stats June 2023 - May 2025

Number of Incidents by Type

Type	Alcohol	Drugs
On Campus	169	68
Off Campus	42	13
Non-Student Incidents	30	30
Fatalities (Including Drunk Driving Accidents)	0	0
SMU-in-Taos	0	0
Totals	241	111

V. Policy and Conduct Standards

The University enforces state law and prohibits the possession and consumption of alcohol by those younger than 21 as well as the use, sale, possession or manufacturing of any controlled substance. SMU addresses alcohol and other drugs in University Policy 1.15 and is written below:

1. Alcohol Policy Statement: The Board of Trustees of the University has affirmed that abusive use of alcoholic beverages and the corresponding effects upon persons constitute one of the more serious problems in our nation. In keeping with the University's heritage as an institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the Board of Trustees has urged all members of the University community to consider use of alcoholic beverages with responsibility, prudence, and moderation. As a university community which espouses the value and worth of persons in an environment of free and open inquiry and expression, it is recognized that individuals must be free to follow their own conscience regarding the use of alcoholic beverages; provided, however, that such freedom does not imply license to violate the law or University policy. The possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places on campus on property owned or controlled by the University is restricted subject to the provisions set forth below.
2. Liquor Laws: All members of the University community should at all times be cognizant of and comply with all applicable liquor laws. The University expects each individual and group within the University community to obey these laws. Failure to do so will subject the offender(s) to potential University action and/or action by civil authorities.
3. Alcohol Abuse and Conduct All members of the University community are expected to maintain self-control and to always uphold their dignity and that of the University in all places

on or off campus. Conduct should be consistent with ideals of excellence of mind, healthy bodies, and responsible social behavior, including recognition of the rights of others.

Intoxication and alcohol abuse are inconsistent with the spirit of the University and will not be tolerated. In recognition of this fact, the University reserves the right to initiate disciplinary action when individuals and groups neglect or abdicate their responsibility to observe the Student Code of Conduct of which this policy is a part.

4. **Approved Alcohol on Campus** The authority to approve the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages on property owned or controlled by the University is delegated to the President of the University, and the President or his/her designee shall have the right and discretion to prohibit, or place restrictions and conditions upon such activities he/she deems appropriate and in the best interest of the University. The President may adopt rules and/or approval procedures governing the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverage son property owned or controlled by the University consistent with this policy. Such rules and procedures may limit or restrict the areas where possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages will be permitted.
5. **Procedures** For procedures for the sale and service of alcohol and for more information regarding the process for the approval of alcohol service on property owned or controlled by the University, please see: <https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/SAVicePres/Resources/Alcohol>

Additional employee alcohol and other drug use is covered under University policies [7.23](#), [7.27](#), and [9.6](#).

SMU CONDUCT STANDARDS

The SMU Student Code of Conduct applies to behavior that occurs both on and off campus. A complete copy of the SMU Student Handbook can be found on the SMU Student Affairs web page, please see: <http://www.smu.edu/studentlife/studenthandbook>

Information about the University alcohol and/or drug use policies for students living in on campus housing (Residential Commons and apartments) can be found on the SMU Residence Life and Student Housing web page: <http://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/ResidenceLifeandStudentHousing/LivingOnCampus/Policies>

Office of Institutional Access and Equality (IAE): <https://www.smu.edu/iae>

VI. Programs and Interventions

Southern Methodist University strives to shape its students into being world changers who contribute to their communities and excel in their professions in a global society. The Wellbeing Commission, which was established in Spring 2023, utilizes a Steering Committee/Taskforce structure to implement a systematic, structural and organizational approach in addressing complex wellbeing challenges and fostering social change. Through the efforts of the Wellbeing Commission and the Substance Use Prevention Sub-Committee, SMU is committed to its mission.

SMU has embraced a harm-reduction framework as identified by the Substance Abuse and Mental

Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The harm-reduction framework takes a public health approach and aims to minimize the negative consequences of substance misuse, rather than focusing on eliminating those behaviors altogether.

At SMU, this philosophy guides the structure of both prevention programs and institutional policies. Initiatives such as the Wellbeing Commission's Substance Use Prevention Sub-Committee, the availability of Narcan on campus, and peer-led education through the Wellbeing Education Student Team are grounded in harm reduction principles. Policies, including the Call for Help / Good Samaritan Policy, further reflect this approach by encouraging students to seek medical assistance without fear of disciplinary action.

Through education, resource access, community engagement, and compassionate intervention, SMU's harm-reduction framework supports student wellbeing while acknowledging the complex realities of substance use in a collegiate environment.

Substance Use Prevention Efforts

Wellbeing Commission, Substance Use Prevention Sub-Committee: Formed in December 2023, and is chaired by Jennifer Barker, Assistant Director for Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, and Dr. Sheri Kunovich, Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success. Other members include representatives from the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center as well as faculty, staff, students, and parents. The sub-committee takes a harm reduction approach to substance use and has led the Narcan initiative on campus. In addition, the committee examines national, state and community AOD trends, explores the needs of the Mustang community as it relates to drug and alcohol use, and collaborates with the other sub-committee members of the Wellbeing Commission to ensure efforts are aligned with the goals of the commission.

Narcan Accessibility and Availability: In May 2025, University Leadership approved a proposal presented by the Substance Use Prevention Sub-Committee to make Narcan more readily available on campus beginning in the Fall 2025 semester. Numerous campus partners serve as distribution points on campus, and overdose prevention trainings are offered on campus each month by the Office of Wellbeing Education.

Preventative Measure Course: This is a required online alcohol abuse course provided through Vector. All incoming students must complete this course as part of their orientation.

"Sober Tent" on the Boulevard: The Office of Wellbeing Education in collaboration with Counseling Services hosts a "sober tent" on the Boulevard prior to home football games. Food and non-alcoholic beverages are offered along with other resources; students (and others) who want to remain sober or who need assistance if they had over-consumed are welcome at the tent any time. The "H-Zone" sober tent hosted 7 home football game events during the 2024 season. A total of 1,150 people were positively impacted by the "H-Zone."

Wellbeing Education Student Team: The Office of Wellbeing Education believes in the power of peer-to-peer education. The Wellbeing Educators are a diverse and equipped group of undergraduate students charged with empowering their peers to make informed decisions regarding their wellbeing. They facilitate dynamic and interactive wellbeing-focused outreach throughout the campus community in a non-judgmental manner. The peer leaders promote wellbeing in all aspects including substance use education. In fall of 2024, WEST hosted “*Sodas and Stories*” in partnership with Generation SOS, where a recent SMU alum shared their journey of mental health challenges, substance misuse, recovery and coping skills. A total of 12 students attended the program. In spring of 2025, WEST hosted a lunchtime workshop entitled, “*Rethink Your Drink*,” to educate students about binge drinking, protecting your drinks, and alternatives to alcohol. A total of 6 students attended the program.

Sober Mustangs: This is a peer led, recovery group that meets weekly on campus at the Hughes-Trigg Student Center. The group participated in 58 meetings and consistently supported 10 students during the weekly group meetings. Students who were actively involved in the Sober Mustangs group held tabling events during the spring 2025 semester and had 50 student interactions during those events.

Prevent and Protect Project: Is a student organization, originally founded through SMU Student Senate’s Wellness Committee, the project is committed to bringing awareness about the dangers of fentanyl, emphasizing the importance of Narcan education and promoting its responsible usage through education, awareness, and community engagement.

Counseling Services: Located in the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center, Counseling Services is dedicated to supporting the mental health needs of SMU students. The office offers a multi-pronged approach for students in recognition of each student being unique. Short term counseling is offered at SMU. The student and counselor will meet on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to collaboratively establish goals, identify triggers, explore and utilize supports, process through factors that impact substance use, and other concerns that pertain to the student’s needs. Group Therapy is also an option. After meeting with the counselor some students may be connected to a group on campus.

Tabling Events: Hosted by the Wellbeing Education Student Team and mainly in and around Hughes Trigg Student Center.

Call for Help – Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty: Student welfare is a primary concern at SMU. Everyone is responsible for creating a healthy community whose members care for one another. One demonstration of caring involves seeking medical assistance for fellow students when lives may be in danger due to alcohol and/or other drug intoxication. To seek medical assistance, please call 911. Students who seek medical assistance for themselves (Medical Amnesty) or another student (Good Samaritan) due to intoxication of alcohol and/or other drugs will not normally be subject to the SMU conduct review process, except when it has been determined that another violation of University policy has occurred (for example: destruction of University property; fire safety violation; physical harm to another person, etc.).

Any exemption from the SMU conduct review process which is granted under this policy may only apply to disciplinary action and/or sanctions under the SMU alcohol and/or drug policies in the SMU

Student Code of Conduct (www.smu.edu/studentlife/studenthandbook) and, therefore, does not prevent the SMU Police or another police agency from detaining a student, issuing a citation, or making an arrest if they deem that action necessary. For this policy to apply, the student must meet with their assigned Conduct Officer, complete an application and once referred, complete all recommendations made by a substance abuse counselor in SMU Counseling Services. (These recommendations will include, at minimum, an individual appointment with a counselor and a follow-up appointment.) While this policy applies to individual students, if an organization has been found in violation of the University's alcohol and/or drug policies, then the organization's willingness to seek medical assistance for a guest may be viewed as a mitigating factor if or when sanctions are issued.

Employee Policies and Services: Human Resources strives to assist employees who struggle with alcohol and other drug abuse. Human Resources provides the following resources to university employees:

- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) administered by Megellan: Provide health expertise, promote wellness and help develop solutions to life's challenges. This is done by providing brief counseling and consultation services, crisis intervention, assessment and referral, educational and training programs and supervisory consultation.
- BCBSTX Mental Health Hub: Online tool that provides access to mental health providers, videos, podcasts and more.
- Learn to Live: Digital mental health programs based on proven therapy techniques.
- MDLIVE: Talk with board certified physicians, therapists, or licensed psychiatrists to address general health and behavioral health issues.
- Cariloop: Caregiver support program to help you manage care needs. Care Coaches are licensed/certified health care professionals understanding and supporting life's challenges.

VII. June 2023 – May 2025 Goals, Objectives, and Achievements Update

The Covid 19 Pandemic halted substance use prevention and education efforts. During the review period of June 2023 to May 2025, we worked to regain momentum lost due to the pandemic, establish a consistent support system of professional staff, and identify students who were seeking a recovery community.

1. Create a dedicated full-time position within the Office of Wellbeing Education to promote recovery and substance use prevention. – a full-time role was hired in October 2023
2. The Office of Wellbeing Education utilizes a harm reduction framework to strive to reduce the negative impact of drug and alcohol misuse. – ongoing
3. A Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor is available to meet with students who self-refer to Counseling Services separate from conduct related concerns. – role was hired in 2024
4. The Wellbeing Education Student Team provides peer-led prevention education events open to all students throughout the school year. – ongoing
5. Develop and implement a proposal to provide faculty, staff, and students with access to Narcan on campus. – proposal approved in May 2025

6. Establish a “sober tent” option on the boulevard, in collaboration with Counseling Services, prior to all home football games. – established in fall 2024

VIII. SWOT Analysis

The biennial review team conducted a SWOT (strength/weakness/opportunity/threat) analysis of the current policies and programs on campus to help identify goals for the 2025 – 2027 biennium. Results of the SWOT are as follows:

Strengths

- SMU has resources such as the sober tent for boulevarding, peer leaders, Call for Help, campus support staff including a case manager and triage counselor, employee resources through HR, Caring Community Connections, and the Prevent and Protect Project, Sober Mustangs, and clinical groups
- The formation of the Wellbeing Commission
- Utilization of a Harm Reduction Framework
- Increased collaboration with campus partners including athletics
- Conduct is seen as a resource and not as out to “get” students and there is strong collaboration between Conduct and the SMU Police Department
- Access to NARCAN on campus

Weaknesses

- Marketing and AOD messaging across campus are lacking consistent messaging
- The website content for students and employees needs to be updated
- Boulevard culture and activities focus on drinking
- Inconsistent space for students in recovery to meet
- Previous gap in staffing left key positions open for an extended period
- Overall concern about reputation and shame/stigma associated with substance misuse
- Lack of internal programming for FSL

Opportunities

- Increased openness from society regarding living a sober lifestyle
- Update messaging to reflect a Harm Reduction Framework
- Develop a relationship with Student Senate
- Create a space for all who are in recovery or sober curious
- Collaborate with the community, University Park PD, and other universities
- Create QR codes for resources
- Explore macro and micro resources including a sober living community and transition support for students returning to campus from treatment
- Increase utilization of counseling program on campus
- Access to NARCAN on campus
- Create content for parent handbook, workshops, and “Be a Good Neighbor” letter for surrounding businesses

- Break down presentations for more focused and concise training
- Utilize FSL Advisors and HQ staff
- Offer mentorships and support from organizations such as MADD and CARE Dallas

Threats

- Navigating change for alumni or campus visitors, especially during the boulevard
- Social stigma continues to impact AOD issues and concerns
- Students access to disposable income
- Community culture and influence
- Growing social media influencers
- Fizz campus student app
- Increase use of Whip Its (Inhalants) and exposure to AOD's prior to college
- Parents contribution to the "party" culture
- Outside stressors and societal expectations impact student wellbeing

IV. June 2025 – May 2027 Program and Policy Recommendations

Program Recommendations

1. Conduct monthly prevention education workshops and Narcan training for faculty, staff, and students.
2. Establish permanent space for students in recovery to meet.
3. Increase support staff visibility across campus through outreach, tabling, programming, and attending campus events.
4. Provide opportunities for sober social activities.
5. Update the Office of Wellbeing Education and Counseling Services webpages.
6. Collaborate with local bars and businesses to promote harm reduction strategies.
7. Continue to support the growth of the Collegiate Recovery Community at SMU through Sober Mustangs.
8. Improve collaboration with the SMU police department through programming such as presentations and social events on campus.
9. Provide prevention education programs for FSL.

X. Conclusion

Southern Methodist University is the premier institution of higher education in Dallas, Texas. The community is nestled in Highland Park, which is known for its economic vitality, strong community values, and close ties to SMU. With this pristine community comes unique challenges, many have adopted a "work hard, play hard" mindset which can impact efforts to address illegal and high-risk AOD use on campus. Consistent outreach, education, and messaging are crucial in reducing the negative implications of substance misuse on our campus and in the community. It takes a village, and SMU is fortunate to have a well-equipped community to address and support the challenges and changes associated with substance misuse.