



Southwestern Community College District

Drug-Free Schools and College District Regulations

Biennial Review

2022 – 2024

Background

The United States Congress passed the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses regulations (EDGAR, Part 86) in 1990. As a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, an institution of higher education (IHE) must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. If audited, failure to comply with the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Abuse Prevention Regulations may cause an institution to forfeit eligibility for federal funding. The biennial report must be completed each even-numbered year and must be available for examination to anyone who requests it.

According to the Higher Education Center's publication, *Complying with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, A Guide for University and College Administrators*, the required review is intended to meet the following objectives:

1. Determine the effectiveness of, and to implement any needed changes to, the AOD prevention programs.
2. Ensure that campuses enforce the disciplinary sanctions for violating standards of conduct consistently.

Description of Southwestern Community College District (SCCD)

- Non-residential community college district.
- Five (5) locations including the Chula Vista Campus, Higher Education Centers at Otay Mesa, San Ysidro, National City, and the Crown Cove Aquatic Center.
- Only institution of higher learning in South San Diego County. SCCD serves approximately 24,000 credit and non-credit students.
- Instructional offerings include credit, noncredit, community services, and business development/contract education courses.

The district is committed to providing its employees, students, student workers and volunteers with a drug-free workplace and campus environment. It emphasizes prevention and intervention through education.

The district shall be free from all illegal drugs and from the unlawful possession, use or distribution of controlled substances and alcoholic beverages. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by employees, students, student workers, and volunteers are only permitted on district property or facilities used for district sponsored events in the following cases:

- The alcoholic beverages are served or sold during an event sponsored by the Southwestern College Foundation office and have secured the appropriate licensing.
- The alcoholic beverage is for use during a non-college event at a district facility and leased to a nonprofit public benefit corporation who acquires the proper insurance and legal requirement for alcoholic beverage distribution.

Alcoholic beverages will not be served or sold to anyone under the age of 21 years. The organizers of events involving alcoholic beverages will exercise due diligence in ensuring

that personal safety and conduct issues are addressed, including providing security personnel at the discretion of the district. No alcoholic beverage can be acquired, possessed, or used at an athletic event sponsored by the district.

Drug Free Schools and Communities Act

In compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, SCCD publishes information regarding the college's educational programs related to drug and alcohol abuse prevention; sanctions for violations of federal, state, and local laws and college policy; a description of health risks associated with alcohol and other drug use; and a description of available treatment programs for District students and employees. A complete description of these topics, as provided in the college's annual notification to students and employees, is available on the [Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program](#) website.

Description of DAAPP Program Elements

a. College Policies and Procedures

Southwestern Community College District continues to maintain a campus free from the illegal use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances which is reflected in the following Governing Board Policies and Procedures.

1. Drug-Free Environment and Drug Prevention – [BP 3550](#) and [AP 3550](#)
2. Alcoholic Beverages – [BP 3560](#) and [AP 3560](#)
3. Smoking and Tobacco Products Policy – [BP 3570](#) and [AP 3570](#)
4. Standards of Student Conduct – [BP 5500](#) and [AP 5500](#)
5. Student Discipline Procedures - [AP 5520](#)
6. Discipline and Dismissal – Classified Employees Policy– [AP 7365](#)
7. Field Trips and Excursions - [BP 4300](#) and [AP 4300](#), “[Excursion Liability Release and Agreement Form](#)”

b. Office of Student Activities/Associated Student Organization

The [Associated Student Organization \(ASO\)](#) represents the students of SCCD. All ASO/College sponsored activities and events are alcohol and drug free. The ASO, which consists of the Executive Board and the Student Senate, is responsible for sponsoring student leadership retreats and student development activities. The ASO officers are housed in the Student Center with over 60 student clubs. Student clubs enhance the educational experience of students and foster social, intellectual, and physical growth.

Clubs and organizations may include field trips to locations off campus. Students are required to read and sign the “[Excursion Liability Release and Agreement Form](#)”, which includes a drug and alcohol statement: “Use, possession, sale, distribution, or manufacture of, or the attempted sale, distribution or manufacture of alcohol and drugs on college properties or at official college functions is unlawful or otherwise prohibited by college policy or campus regulations”. The form is attached to the policy Field Trips and Excursions - [BP 4300](#) and [AP 4300](#).

c. Athletics

Southwestern College has seventeen intercollegiate sports. These include baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, football, men's and women's soccer, softball, men's and women's swimming & diving, women's tennis, men's and women's track & field, women's volleyball, men's and women's water polo. All teams compete in the Pacific Coast Conference (PCAC), with the exception of Football which competes in the Southern California Football Association (SCFA). There were 323 student-athletes who participated in college athletics 2023-2024.

Southwestern College's Athletics program, like the college as a whole, prohibits the use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol, and maintains a smoke and tobacco-free environment. The Athletic Department expects student-athletes as representatives of Southwestern College to conform to district policy on drug and alcohol use.

A student-athlete who consumes alcohol, regardless of age, will be held accountable for any alcohol related incident in which he or she is involved. In such cases, the student-athlete is subject to College, Athletic Department and/or team disciplinary action whether or not there are legal implications.

Smoking (inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying a lighted tobacco product) and the use of tobacco-derived or containing products including but not limited to cigarettes (clove, bidis, kreteks), electronic cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos, hookah smoked products, and oral tobacco (spit and spitless, smokeless, chew, snuff), on all district properties is prohibited.

The Department of Athletics is committed to a drug-free environment for the student-athletes of its intercollegiate sports. Possession, use, distribution, including the misuse (sharing, buying, or using in a manner different than prescribed) of prescription and non-prescription drugs, including marijuana as well as amphetamines, heroin, cocaine, and non-prescription synthetics are subject to disciplinary action as appropriate, consistent with Southwestern Community College District policy, and federal, state and local laws.

d. Health 101 and Health 116

Health 101: Principles of Healthful Living is a popular class with over 20 sections of the course offered each semester. This course addresses contemporary public health issues and emphasizes development of holistically healthy living. Topics include an overview of acute and chronic infectious diseases, human sexuality, drug addiction, alcohol and tobacco dependency, cardiovascular disease and cancer, health and fitness, nutrition, body composition, and environmental and psychological wellness.

Health 116: Women's Health and Well-Being, is a course that provides modern knowledge to the development of understanding, attitudes, and practices essential to healthful living with special emphasis on women's issues. Includes comprehensive coverage of nutrition and personal fitness; injury prevention; chronic and infectious diseases; reproductive health; substance abuse; emotional well-being; and a history of women's health concerns.

e. Personal Wellness Services (PWS)

Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services are offered to students at SWCCD through the Personal Wellness Services (PWS). The overall purpose of PWS is to promote emotional health and wellness, student success, and retention at the college. Services include psychological assessment, crisis intervention, brief individual psychotherapy, referrals to community resources, wellness workshops, faculty/staff consultations, and staff development activities.

Substance Abuse Treatment:

Substance abuse and substance related issues are integrated into PWS. Mental health clinicians routinely provide individualized assessment, brief treatment, education, and referrals to community agencies for substance abuse and co-occurring behavioral health problems. Between the Fall 2022 and Spring 2024 semester, approximately 5% of students served by PWS presented with Drug/Alcohol Abuse as either their primary presenting problem or as a co-occurring issue, with alcohol and marijuana as the most commonly used substance amongst students.

Wellness Workshops:

Personal Wellness Services workshops targeting drug and alcohol abuse have been offered each semester as part of a series of workshops focusing on prevention and education. The purpose of these workshops is to provide students with information and data regarding alcohol/drug use, to increase awareness of the impact of use/misuse, assist students in determining if they have an alcohol/drug problem, assist students who might be concerned about a friend's drinking or drug use, explore ways to cut down one's drinking or drug use, and provide PWS contact and referral information. During the reporting time period, a total of 147 students attended psychoeducation workshops focusing on alcohol and other substance abuse.

Academic Year	Workshop	Facilitator	Number of Participants
2022-2023	Substance Abuse	Center for Community Research	34
	Alcohol Abuse	Institute for Public Strategies	20
	Alcohol Abuse	Imperial Beach Community Clinic	18
2023-2024	Alcohol Abuse	Imperial Beach Community Clinic	19
	Alcohol Abuse	McAlister Institute	12
	Substance Abuse	Center for Community Research	44

Community Partnerships:

As part of the PWS treatment model, students are routinely referred to resources in the community for more specialized behavioral health and/or substance abuse issues. Therapists for PWS collaborate and arrange meetings with agencies in the community that provide both behavioral health and substance abuse treatment. Community partners include South Bay Guidance Wellness Recovery Center, the Maria Sardinas Wellness and Recovery Center, and the South Bay Regional Recovery Center.

In order to better serve our students, more formalized partnerships with the above agencies have been developed over the last few years. This has resulted in two formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each the parent companies of these agencies; the Community Research Foundation and the McAlister Institute. The Community Research Foundation, which includes the South Bay Guidance and Maria Sardinas Centers provides our students with behavioral health and co-occurring substance abuse treatment. The McAlister Institute, which includes the South Bay Regional Recovery Center, provides our students with a continuum of services in the community including detoxification, intensive outpatient programming, homeless outreach services/resources, and drug testing.

Other more informal community partners include Family Health Centers of San Diego, local substance abuse treatment centers, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), private practices, psychiatric services, and community-based wraparound services.

Future Directions:

In the near future, PWS will implement a comprehensive system to collect, track, and follow-up on referral and outcome data in order to improve the quality of care provided. This will be accomplished by developing more intensive case management services and improving the infrastructure of our programming which is currently in progress.

f. Health Services

The beginning of the Spring 2023 SWC employees and students returned to in-person operations, including instruction and college services. Health Services followed the COVID-19 guidelines established by the California Department of Public Health and San Diego County Health and Human Services. Contact tracing measures for COVID-19 remained in effect to ensure a safe campus environment. These health initiatives were upheld through the Fall 2024 semester.

Health Services continued to provide virtual telehealth services via Cranium Café, telephone consultations, and email communication. Nurses were available to address student health concerns during this period. During this timeframe, there was one recorded incident related to alcohol and drug use.

Health Services offers health assessments for students displaying physical signs of drug and/or alcohol intoxication. Additionally, they are available to address any questions or concerns students may have regarding their use of alcohol and/or other substances. The Health Services Office also provides a range of literature and community resources for individuals seeking information or support.

Health Services organizes and conducts a range of health-related outreach activities throughout the year. These activities are designed to inspire and empower students to embrace healthy habits and make lifestyle changes that can reduce their risk of chronic diseases and harmful health behaviors. Outreach efforts include tabling events and recorded workshops available on an online platform called Canvas. Topics covered a range of health issues from COVID-19 and blood pressure screenings to stress management, alcohol awareness, and sexually transmitted diseases, among others. In Fall 2023, Health Services proudly resumed its annual Health Fair, which serves as a platform to raise awareness about available community resources. Various health organizations, including the Harm Reduction Coalition of San Diego, Imperial Beach Community Clinic, and the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC), participate in the health fair each year, providing essential substance abuse resources.

In Spring 2023, Health Services applied for and received approval to join the Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) from the State of California's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). This initiative is designed to address the opioid crisis in California by reducing opioid overdose fatalities through the distribution of free Naloxone. Collaborating organizations, including San Diego County Health and Human Services, Harm Reduction Coalition of San Diego, and A New Path, have supported Health Services by providing various workshops and outreach initiatives. Currently, Health Services is working with A New Path to offer monthly outreach sessions and workshops that are open to the college community. Participants receive training on how to recognize individuals who may be experiencing an overdose and how to administer Naloxone (Narcan).

Academic Year	Activity	Facilitator	Number of Participants
2022-2023	Workshop	San Diego County Health and Human Services	31
2023-2024	Outreach	Harm Reduction Coalition of San Diego	100
2023-2024	Workshop	Harm Reduction Coalition of San Diego	3
2023-2024	Outreach	A New Path	468
2023-2024	Workshop	A New Path	96

Health Risks

The health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol include:

- Death, which may occur due to alcohol poisoning or drug overdose
- Increased risk of addiction and withdrawal symptoms including pain, convulsions and depression
- Damage to vital organs, including the liver, heart, kidney, pancreas, and brain damage and/or loss of brain cells
- Impaired judgment leading to safety and health risks including accidents, unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and aggressive or violent behavior
- Impaired performance including drowsiness, memory issues, and difficulty concentrating
- Sexual dysfunctions
- Potential harm to a fetus, which may result in spontaneous abortion, premature labor, and placental detachment
- Psychological problems including depression, anxiety, paranoia, panic reactions, psychosis and hallucinations
- Seizures
- Strokes, cardiac arrest or other cardiovascular problems
- Lung damage or illnesses, bronchitis, or respiratory arrest
- Needle-related illnesses and complications such as hepatitis, HIV, muscle and nerve tissue damage necessitating limb amputation, and infections

g. Human Resources

The [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) is available through Human Resources for employees to provide confidential counseling services to employees who have concerns about their use of alcohol or other substances. EAP offers Southwestern College employees 24/7 access to clinicians who are available to provide assistance. Services provided by EAP include Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention.

h. Police Department

The [Southwestern College Police Department](#) is entrusted with a tremendous responsibility to serve the campus communities with skillful, dedicated, and compassionate constitutional policing and public safety services. We recognize that effective law enforcement relies upon partnerships with those we serve and this is only obtained by building and fostering trust. We pledge to work cooperatively with those we serve to promote a safe and positive learning environment.

In accordance with Public Law 101-226 Drug-free Schools and Community Act Amendment of 1989, the Governing Board of the Southwestern Community College District prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcoholic beverages by students and employees on district property or part of any district-sanctioned activity. Employees and students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of Governing Board policies that could include expulsion from the college for students or termination from employment for employees. Persons are also subject to arrest and criminal prosecution for violation of state and federal drug and liquor laws.

Possession, use and sale of alcoholic beverages on district property, public intoxication, and drunk driving are violations of California state law and subject to criminal prosecution.

State Alcoholic Beverage Laws	Description	Classification
B&P 25662a	Minor in Possession of an Alcohol Beverage	Misdemeanor
B&P 25620a	Open Container of Alcoholic in a Public Place	Misdemeanor
B&P 25608a	Possession of an Alcoholic Beverage on Campus	Misdemeanor
PC 647f	Public Intoxication	Misdemeanor
VC 23152a&b	Drunk Driving	Misdemeanor
VC 23220a	Drinking while Driving	Infraction
VC 23223a	Driver in Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol	Infraction
VC 23223b	Passenger in Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol	Infraction

The use, sale or possession of any illegal drug or being under the influence of any illegal drug is a violation of California state law and subject to criminal prosecution.

State Drug Laws	Description	Classification
H&S 11357b	Possession of Marijuana	Infraction
H&S 11358	Cultivation of Marijuana	Misdemeanor or Felony
H&S 11359	Intent to Sell Marijuana without a License	Misdemeanor or Felony
H&S 11350	Possession of Controlled Substance	Misdemeanor or Felony
H&S 11351	Possession of Controlled Substance for Sale	Felony
H&S 11352	Sales/Transport Controlled Substance	Felony

H&S 11377a	Possession of Dangerous Drugs	Misdemeanor
H&S 11378	Possession of Dangerous Drugs for Sale	Felony
H&S 11379	Sales/Transport Dangerous Drugs	Felony
H&S 11550a	Under the Influence of Drugs	Misdemeanor
B&P 4149	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	Infraction
VC 23222(b)	Driver in Possession of Marijuana in a Vehicle	Infraction

The use, sale or possession of any illegal drug is also a violation of federal law and subject to criminal penalties that could include fines and imprisonment in a federal correctional facility.

The College Police Department partners with other college departments to offer drug and alcohol use and addiction educational programs with the intent to discourage the illegal use of intoxicants and the responsible use of legal intoxicants. College Police Officers actively enforce state laws concerning illegal drug and/or alcoholic beverage use and possession, public intoxication, and drunk driving.

Employees found in violation of alcoholic beverage and drug laws are referred to the District's Human Resources Department for potential administrative action and/or employment sanctions. Similarly, students found in violation of alcoholic beverage and drug laws are referred to Student Services for potential administrative sanction.

i. Office of Student Services

The [Office of Student Services](#) is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for students, faculty, and staff. The office oversees the student conduct and student grievance processes, with a focus on student learning, responsible behavioral choices, and access to interventions and resources. The Dean of Student Services and the Student Conduct and Care Coordinator meets with any student who has been charged with an alleged violation of District alcohol and drug policies. The Dean of Student Services provides each student with a copy of the [Standards of Student Conduct](#), reviews the student's rights and responsibilities, reviews due process procedures, determines appropriate conduct sanctions, and works with the student to access campus and community resources.

Policy Enforcement

Students are made aware of College District policy and procedures in the online [SCCD College Catalog](#) and the [SCCD Student Services Policies and Procedures](#) webpage. Classified and Academic staff are provided Governing Board Policy 3550: Drug-Free Environment and Drug Prevention and 3570: Smoking and Tobacco Products Policy when initially hired by the District.

The table below represents data for alcohol and drug related violations for the entire district, including the Chula Vista, Higher Education Centers in Otay Mesa, San Ysidro, and National City, and the Crown Cove Aquatic Center campuses. Additional information, including CLERY crime statistics for 2021-2023, is published in the [SCCD Annual Security Report 2024](#).

	2022	2023	2024
Liquor Law Arrests	0	0	Not Available
Drug Law Arrests	0	1*	Not Available
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	Not Available
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	0	0	Not Available

*The arrest involved a non-student and occurred on the Chula Vista campus

Possible Sanctions That Can Be Imposed by the District

- Educational Sanction: Educational learning related to the conduct violation, which may include restitution, formal apology, reflection paper, mediation, educational learning opportunity, or restorative learning opportunity.
- Written Reprimand: The student is given written notification to cease and desist from conduct determined to violate the Standards of Student Conduct and that continuation or repetition of misconduct may result in further disciplinary action and may be considered in the event of future violations. Written reprimands may become part of a student's permanent record at the college.
- Disciplinary Probation: A student is placed on conditional participation in College District classes, activities and/or privileges for a specified period time and is notified that any other misconduct during the probation period will be cause for other disciplinary action, including suspension. Disciplinary Probation may include ineligibility for student organization officer positions.
- Short-Term Suspension: A student is excluded for good cause from one or more classes for a period of up to ten (10) days of instruction.
- Long-term Suspension: A student is excluded for good cause from one or more classes, activities and/or privileges of the College District for the remainder of the school term, or from all classes, activities and/or privileges of the College District for one or more terms.
- Expulsion: The Dean of Student Services or the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President for Student Affairs may recommend expulsion to the

Superintendent/President. Expulsion is the termination of student status and the exclusion of the student from the College District. Expulsion requires formal action by the Governing Board.

Ensuring Sanctions are Consistently Imposed and Enforced

Sanctions that address student conduct violations, including those related to drug and alcohol, are consistently applied. Each student is afforded due process as outlined in established policies and procedures. When a violation occurs, a thorough fact-finding and investigative process is initiated and the following criteria are considered:

- History of previous conduct violations
- Statements and documentation provided by all involved parties
- Impact on the safety of all involved parties and the community at large

Program Effectiveness and Improvement Recommendations

SCCD's efforts to prevent, reduce, and address drug and alcohol abuse by students and employees is effective. However, opportunities for further improvements can be implemented to increase DAAPP stakeholder collaboration, campus-wide communication, referral services, and data collection. The following recommendations will be explored for the upcoming 2022-2024 biennial review:

1. Continue annual notification to students and employees to include global messaging via campus communications systems, social media platforms, and increased website visibility and access to resources.
2. Improve data collection from DAAPP programs offered by Health Services and PWS including the addition of service coding, qualitative data from program interventions (workshops, presentations, etc.), and disproportionate impact data. Collaborate with Institutional Research and Planning to further refine existing data collection to monitor trends.
3. Expand partnerships with community-based agencies to increase referral options for students and employees. Review existing MOUs and revise to include data sharing and collaboration on follow up interventions.
4. Continue DAAPP Task Force meetings on a bi-annual basis to establish new goals, evaluate progress of current goals, and consider expanding membership to include student representation (for example, Associated Student Organization leadership and researcher from Institutional Research and Planning).
5. Further promote available college drug and alcohol abuse programs and services for students and employees. Consider implementing Professional Development opportunities and develop learning outcomes for students and employees.
6. Conduct a campus-wide study to increase student and employee attitudes and resource needs regarding drug and alcohol use.
7. Explore the possibility of including an online training module in the new student orientation and the new employee onboarding process.
8. Implement training for Jaguar Pathways Field of Study Student Success Team members to include awareness, intervention, and referral processes.

Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program Contributors

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