

SHSU Biennial Review

AN OVERVIEW OF DRUG FREE SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES
REGULATIONS FOR 2023-2025

Prepared by: Lindsey Lopez, MA, CHES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY | STUDENT WELLNESS

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Introduction

About Sam Houston State University

Named for Texas's greatest hero, SHSU continually honors its historical roots through academic excellence. For more than 140 years, Sam Houston State University (SHSU) has been preparing students for meaningful lives of achievement. Its motto, "The Measure of a Life is its Service," resonates among its approximately 21,264 students, nine colleges and well beyond its Huntsville roots.

SHSU offers over 80 bachelor's degree programs, more than 55 master's degree programs, and ten doctoral programs, including nationally recognized programs in Business, Fine Arts, Education, Mathematics, and Criminal Justice. SHSU's main campus is located in Huntsville, TX, which is approximately 70 miles north of Houston, TX, with additional campus locations in Conroe, TX, and The Woodlands, TX. In 2022, SHSU was designated a Doctoral University of High Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Sam Houston State is one of only two universities that currently hold this research status within the Texas State University System (TSUS).

The SHSU College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM), which opened in 2020, is located approximately 30 minutes south of Huntsville in the city of Conroe, TX. The mission of the SHSU-COM is to prepare students for the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine with an emphasis toward primary care and rural practice, to develop diverse and compassionate physicians, who follow osteopathic principles, that are prepared to graduate medical education, and will serve the people of Texas with professionalism and patient-centered care.

SHSU has an additional campus location in The Woodlands, TX, which is approximately 45 minutes south of Huntsville, called The Woodlands Center (SHSU-TWC). SHSU-TWC, open since 2021, offers degrees from numerous colleges including College of Business Administration, College of Education, and the College of Science & Engineering Technology. SHSU-TWC is also home to the Sam Houston State University School of Nursing.

SHSU is ranked among the top colleges/universities for social mobility in U.S. News & World Report. From medical and doctoral degrees, undergraduate to graduate programs, SHSU provides an exceptional college experience for every student.

With a campus community comprised of approximately 50 percent first-generation students, SHSU's First Generation Center launched in 2022 and serves as resource in student success.

In July 2023, Bearkat Athletics joined Conference USA and have competed in seventeen NCAA Division I sports.

Points of Distinction

- Federally designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.
- Designated a Doctoral University-High Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.
- Classified as "Community Engaged" by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.

Objectives of Biennial Review Report

The 2025 Sam Houston State University (SHSU) Biennial Review qualifies as fulfillment of the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations. These regulations require institutions of higher education to conduct a biennial review of their alcohol and other drug programs and policies to determine program effectiveness and consistency of policy enforcement and to identify and implement any changes needed. The following review is a report of alcohol and drug prevention activities conducted from September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2025.

University Philosophy – Alcohol and Drugs

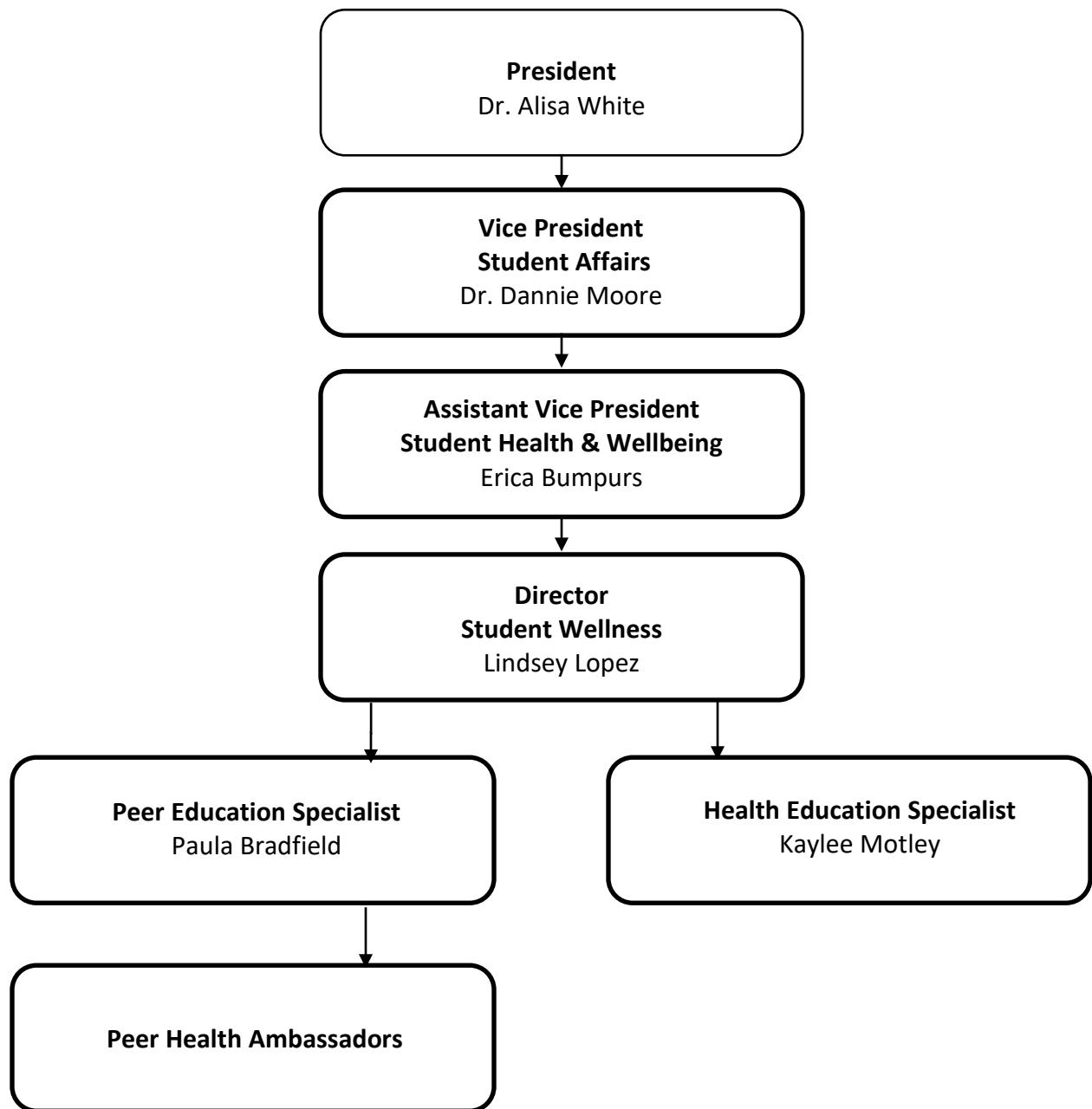
Sam Houston State University prides itself on providing the student body with a quality education in a broad range of different disciplines. Achieving the overarching academic goal of the University demands that SHSU provide a social environment that is conducive to the intellectual and personal development of the University community. Furthermore, in pursuit of this goal SHSU must provide services to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of community members. Alcohol and drug abuse is widely acknowledged as a major public health issue in higher education. Studies indicate that high-risk drinking and drug use in college is associated with violence, poor academic performance, and vandalism. Most significantly, each year approximately 2,000 college students die from irresponsible alcohol use according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

SHSU is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all community members. With knowledge of the impact that alcohol and drugs have on the welfare of our student body, SHSU is committed to preventing the incidence of the negative outcomes of alcohol and drug abuse. For several years, SHSU has prioritized alcohol and drug prevention efforts. In 2004, the SHSU administration formally created the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Initiative (ADAI) and created a steering committee to coordinate ADAI efforts. In 2011, the ADAI transformed from a program to a department with a budget and staff committed to overseeing prevention efforts on a full-time basis.

In Fall 2015, the Office of Health Promotion was formed under the Student Health Center and overtook alcohol and drug prevention and educational efforts, hence dissolving the ADAI. This change expanded alcohol and drug prevention efforts from one full-time staff member to three full-time staff members, and up to seven student ambassadors per semester. This has improved the reach of prevention efforts, which is reflected in a reduction of alcohol-related issues. As of August 2023, the department was re-branded as Student Wellness.

SHSU benefits from having an office dedicated to health promotion and prevention. Other SHSU entities that take an active role in alcohol and drug prevention include the Dean of Students' Office, Residence Life, University Police Department, First Year Experience, Athletics, and many others.

Description of SHSU AOD Prevention Support and Structure



Staffing

Dr. Dannie Moore

Vice President for Student Affairs

The Vice President for Student Affairs oversees all departments within the Division of Student Affairs, including the Student Health Center and Student Wellness office.

Erica Bumpurs

Assistant Vice President, Student Health & Wellbeing

In Summer 2024, a new leadership position was created within the Division of Student Affairs to oversee student health and wellbeing efforts. This position oversees the Student Health Center, Student Wellness, Counseling Center, Campus Recreation, and Services for Students with Disabilities.

Lindsey Lopez

Director, Student Wellness

The Director coordinates on-campus prevention efforts aimed at reducing high-risk drinking, drug use, and the associated outcomes among students. Other duties include supervising full-time health education staff, performing alcohol and drug-related research, creating, and disseminating relevant reports, and updating prevention activities as needed.

Peer Health Ambassadors

Student Wellness employs Peer Health Ambassadors and interns each year to assist in prevention efforts. Responsibilities for these roles include community outreach through presentations and passive programming, marketing for events, development of social media and marketing, and administrative tasks associated with program development and implementation. Peer Health Ambassadors provide evidence-based peer-to-peer education, as well as provide professional staff with the student perspective regarding health and wellness to improve prevention efforts.

Funding

Alcohol and drug prevention-related efforts are supported by the Student Wellness budget, which is funded from the Student Health Services' operating budget. Additional funding is derived from partnerships with campus collaborators.

Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Efforts

Program Requests

Student Wellness provides presentations by request from the SHSU community, including but not limited to, fraternities & sororities, student organizations, and residence hall advisors. SHSU community members are able to schedule presentation requests by contacting departmental staff at studentwellness@shsu.edu. Requests are to invite professional health educators and Peer Health Ambassadors to present on a variety of health-related topics, including alcohol and other drugs.

The University Police Department (UPD) also delivered alcohol and drug (AOD) related programs by request through their [Request Form](#). Their AOD program is titled “Alcohol and Drug Abuse: Awareness and Prevention.” Participants will receive information pertaining to state laws regarding alcohol consumption and recreational/prescription drug use, statistics, and tips to raise awareness on a growing problem across college campuses. Presentations may include interactive demonstrations to show the physical dangers of excessive alcohol use, while keeping the participants in a safe environment.

Activities and Programming

Student Wellness offers programs and activities in which students can learn about alcohol and other drugs, while also engaging in substance-free programming.

Some substance-free programming has included:

- Weeding Out the Myths – plant a succulent with Peer Health Ambassadors while learning myths about marijuana
- Campus Activities Board (CAB) Takeover – make a mocktail with Peer Health Ambassadors while learning about alcohol safety
- Health Huts & pop-up programming – stop by to talk with a Peer Health Ambassador about alcohol, marijuana, or other substances

Peer Health Ambassadors

As of Summer 2022, Student Wellness hired a Peer Education Specialist to formally advise the Peer Health Ambassador (PHA) program. The program started in Fall 2022 with 5 PHAs and has grown each year to now having 7 PHAs for Fall 2025.

Evidence-based practice shows that peer-to-peer education is more effective in reaching college-aged students. PHAs attend multiple events on campus to educate students on a variety of topics including: alcohol and drug use prevention & harm reduction, sexual health & consent, and more.

Online Education Programming

Students found in violation of the university’s alcohol and/or marijuana policies are required to take an online educational course through 3rd Millennium as part of their sanctioning process.

Substance-Free Options on Campus

Sam Houston State University hosts a variety of substance-free events and programs on campus throughout the school year. Some options include athletic events, informational conferences and lectures, concerts, comedy shows, and more. Since substance use is most common on nights and weekends (including Thursday nights), SHSU offers many substance-free options during these times to provide students with alternative activities to events that may involve substance use.

Most campus-wide student events are posted on the SHSU [Events Calendar](#).

Listed below are just a few departments who host popular substance-free programs for the campus community.

Campus Activities & Involvement

[Campus Activities & Involvement](#) (CAI) is committed to developing students outside of the classroom. They create and implement positive programs and events that allow students to enjoy the full collegiate experience while fostering holistic student development. Highly anticipated events hosted by Campus Activities & Involvement include Welcome Week, Homecoming Week, the Tree of Light Ceremony, SammyPalooza, and Bell Tower Bound.

CAI empowers students to lead authentically by embracing individuality. They equip Bearkats to serve the greater good through community and offer opportunities for intentional involvement focused on student access and success. CAI oversees all SHSU's student organizations and requires that two officers (one must be the president) take required training as mandated by the Texas Education Code Sections 51.936, 51.9361, and 51.9362, which covers topics like alcohol and drug policies, and risk management. CAI offers opportunities to be engaged in substance-free programming for all student organization members. Additionally, CAI hosts multiple service days throughout the academic year for student participation including Arbor Day and MLK Day of Service.

Campus Recreation

[Campus Recreation](#) offers a wide variety of activities for student participation. The Campus Recreation Center maintains convenient hours to accommodate most student schedules. They offer a fully equipped fitness center, basketball/volleyball courts, group fitness rooms/classes, racquetball courts, a swimming pool, E-Sports Lounge, and a rock-climbing wall.

For programming, Campus Recreation offers various Intramural and Club Sports teams, informal recreation, outdoor recreation, and special events on-campus. They publicize programs and activities on their webpage and through social media.

Lowman Student Center

The [Lowman Student Center](#) (LSC) is known as "Your Living Room on Campus." The Kat Klub on the first floor of the LSC is a space for students to relax, listen to music and play games. The Kat Klub features 27 high-definition TVs, 8 state-of-the-art bowling lanes with 4 drop-down projectors, 6 competition billiard tables, 5 video game console stations with Xbox One X and PlayStation 4 Pro systems, 2 competition table tennis tables, various selections of classic arcade games, and seating for 150+ people. The Kat Klub also hosts various tournaments (poker, bowling, billiards, and video games), as well as karaoke nights, Tunes @ Noon, and many more events and programs.

Normative Environment

Bearkat Kickoff

Sam Houston State University makes an ongoing effort to address the potential for alcohol and/or drug use with students before they matriculate for their first semester.

In 2022, Bearkat Kickoff was developed under a grant funded from the Trellis Foundation. The Mental Health and Well-being Committee was formed to develop content specifically related to supporting education related to a variety of topics that may impact student's ability to succeed in college, which included presentations on access to campus wellness resources, alcohol and drug use prevention, sexual health and consent, and campus safety.

Bearkat Kickoff has run the week prior to the first day of classes since Fall 2023. All first-year students are invited to engage with education and opportunities for substance-free programming.

Campus Connect Alerts and Referral Program

The [Campus Connect Alerts & Referrals program](#) helps support student success by providing an early detection of students who are exhibiting signs of academic difficulty or who could benefit from appropriate campus resources.

During a student's enrollment, they may experience hardships that can impact their academic progress. Often, these hardships are the underlying reason why a student may be exhibiting specific behaviors that would suggest a lack of engagement in courses.

Referrals are used to connect a student with a support resource when a faculty or staff uncovers a student's need that aligns with services provided by a specific center. Referrals are used to nudge a student into making an appointment with a department and to inform the department of a student being referred to their services.

Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT)

The Behavioral Intervention Team is formed by a group of employees from various areas on-campus. The committee is led by the SHSU Dean of Students and is designed to proactively address a variety of situations that compromise student success.

The goals of the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) are:

1. To assist in the direction of a student in crisis while paying special attention to the safety and security needs of community members.
2. To offer counseling, guidance, referrals, and any other feasible type of support needed to members of the SHSU community, including their families.
3. To use the experience of crisis, when appropriate, as a teachable moment which may enhance the quality of life for all of those touched by the experience.

If a student, staff, or faculty member has a concern regarding a specific student, they may submit the [Behavioral Intervention Form](#) to the Dean of Students' Office.

Alcohol Availability

Alcohol possession, use, and sale on-campus and SHSU property

Per [Finance and Operations Policy \(FO-70\)](#), the sale or service of alcoholic beverages on the campus of SHSU is permissible only when such service conforms to state law and occurs under specific circumstances and in special use buildings and facilities designated by the President.

Possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages on any property owned and/or controlled by SHSU are prohibited except where permitted explicitly this policy. Violators of law or University policy will be subject to university penalties and criminal charges.

Alcohol sale at Athletic events

Alcohol is sold at Athletic events including football games at Bowers Stadium. Alcohol purchased at a Sam Houston Athletic event must be consumed inside the venue or discarded prior to leaving. No alcohol may be brought in from outside the venue.

Alcohol availability at tailgating

The University permits the use of alcoholic beverages at tailgate parties or picnic activities at designated NCAA intercollegiate athletic events only on the day of the event, during stated time parameters and locations as defined in the event plan.

Bearkat Alley is the official tailgate area during football season at SHSU. For every home game (and for specific away games) the Department of Campus Activities and Involvement) hosts a variety of organizations and departments who tailgate in a designated area near Bowers Stadium located in Lot 12 (Coliseum Lot on Bobby K. Marks Dr. & Bowers Blvd).

Alcohol is allowed at Bearkat Alley; however, alcohol consumption is monitored by University Police Department and any problems that occur will be handled by UPD. Minor consumption violations will be ticketed.

Bearkat Alley policies and procedures can be found at [Bearkat Alley Policies 2023 - EVXP-01.pdf \(shsu.edu\)](#).

Local establishments

Sam Houston State University is located near several establishments that provide alcohol during service to individuals over the age of 21.

Additionally, there are two main establishments that serve as bars/dance clubs that are regularly frequented by SHSU students: Shenanigans and the Jolly Fox.

Policy Development and Enforcement

Finance and Operations Policy (FO-70)

As of August 2023, the [Finance and Operations Alcoholic Beverage Policy \(FO-70\)](#) was placed into effect to replace the President's Office Policy (PRE-01).

The Alcoholic Beverage Policy (FO-70) is applicable to all sales or service of alcoholic beverages on any leased or owned property of Sam Houston State University (SHSU) as well as the sales or service of alcoholic beverages at events hosted by SHSU, regardless of location.

The sale or service of alcoholic beverages on the campus of SHSU is permissible only when such service conforms to state law and occurs under the following circumstances and in [special use buildings and facilities](#) designated by the President:

1. Courses as part of the academic curriculum

The University permits the service of alcoholic beverages in agricultural courses as part of the academic curriculum.

2. Tailgate Events

The University permits the use of alcoholic beverages at tailgate parties or picnic activities at designated NCAA intercollegiate athletic events only on the day of the event, during stated time parameters and locations as defined in the event plan.

3. SHSU Facilities with Aramark Food Services as Exclusive Provider

Aramark food services is the official provider of food and alcohol on the campuses of SHSU. As the University's official catering service, Aramark is required to maintain appropriate alcohol service licensure and has the right of first refusal to cater for all events held on the campus of SHSU. When Aramark is the service provider of alcoholic beverages, departments, individuals, or sponsoring organizations of events are required to complete **the alcohol section on the Aramark Catering Form or the Blanket Aramark Catering Form in Bearkat Buy**. The requisition shall be initiated at least forty-five (45) days in advance of the event and must include the building location and type of alcohol (beer, wine, liquor, etc.). A room reservation is required through the building liaison before hosting an event on campus. The requisition shall be reviewed, and a response provided thirty (30) business days in advance of the event.

4. SHSU Facilities Not Exclusive to Aramark Food Services

When Aramark is not the caterer, the event host must procure service by another licensed caterer. The event host must provide the following information to the Event Logistics Coordinator within the Auxiliary Services Department at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the event:

- Proof of general liability insurance coverage in amounts required by the University. Each occurrence \$1,000,000; General Aggregate \$2,000,000 with the University listed as additional insured.
- A copy of current Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission permit to serve alcohol.
- An approved [Alcohol Approval Form](#).

5. Leased or rented facilities

Facilities leased, rented, or otherwise utilized by SHSU departments or organizations desiring to serve alcohol and using University funds, as defined in funding restrictions below, must follow the procedures outlined above in number four (4).

6. Donated Alcohol

Alcohol not procured, but donated, must also be served by a person or organization holding the proper Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission permitting and must submit the documentation stated above to the Event Logistics Coordinator.

7. Funding Restrictions for the Purchase of Alcoholic Beverages

Alcohol may not be purchased with funds from state appropriations, tuition, student assessed fees, or grants (unless specifically budgeted and approved by the sponsor). In the event of multiple external restrictions on funds, the most restrictive party will control.

8. Restrictions on Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages

Possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages on any property owned and/or controlled by SHSU are prohibited except where permitted explicitly by this policy. Violators of law or University policy will be subject to university penalties and criminal charges.

9. Hours of Service

Events with service hours that include the traditional work hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm must provide a memo of justification approved by the host department's division vice president to the Event Logistics Coordinator at the time the requisition is initiated.

Tobacco Policy (PRE-19)

SHSU's Tobacco Policy was developed to establish guidelines prohibiting smoking and the use of all tobacco and electronic/vaping products. Tobacco/vaping products include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, and all other tobacco or vapor producing products. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, contractors, employees of contractors, and visitors of Sam Houston State University on the premises of the university. Tobacco and electronic/vaping products are not permitted on campus including University-owned or leased building or vehicles unless exempted under Section B.

Drug-Free Workplace Policy (HR-23)

Under People Operations (Human Resources), the [Drug-Free Workplace Policy](#) states that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace of University. All personnel actions are reviewed to ensure Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) compliance.

Dean of Students' Office Student Code of Conduct

The Dean of Students' Office provides specific guidelines regarding alcohol and other drug use in their [Student Code of Conduct](#) (updated Fall 2025). Specific examples of conduct that are violations of this Student Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to, involvement or attempted involvement in the following:

- Underage Possession or Consumption of Alcohol: Unlawful possession, consumption, or attempted consumption of alcohol by individuals under 21.
- Alcohol-Related Misconduct: Possession, providing, using, or distributing alcoholic or intoxicating beverages in a manner that violates University policies or that would constitute an offense under appropriate federal, state, or municipal law (e.g., possessing or consuming alcohol in unauthorized campus areas, or being under the influence to the extent that action disrupts University activities or community or individual safety).
- Public Intoxication: Being impaired by alcohol or drugs in a public place, endangering oneself or others, or causing a disturbance.
- Driving Under the Influence: Operating a motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol, drugs, or other substances.
- Illegal Drugs: Possession, using, selling, or distributing any illegal drug or controlled substance on or off university property or during university affiliated activities.
- Drug Paraphernalia: Possessing, using, delivering, or manufacturing drug paraphernalia on or off university property.

The possession, consumption, or distribution of alcoholic beverages on any property owned and/or controlled by Sam Houston State University are prohibited except where permitted explicitly by published policies.

The following disciplinary sanctions comprise the range of official university actions that may be taken when, based on the preponderance of the evidence, a student is determined to have engaged in prohibited conduct. These penalties are not exclusive and may be imposed with other sanctions.

1. Warning – Written notice that a violation has occurred, with further violations risking additional disciplinary action.
2. Restricted privileges – Denial of specified privileges including but not limited to parking, dining, living, or extracurricular participation for a designated period.
3. Special project – Completion of an educational essay, community service, or workshop, the purpose of which is to address the violation and prevent recurrence.
4. Restitution – Compensation for damage caused to the university or any person's property, via payment or community service.

5. Disciplinary probation – Indicates a student is not in good standing for a designated period, restricting leadership roles or representation of the university.
6. Deferred Suspension – Probation for a designated period with the understanding that a further violation results in suspension.
7. Disciplinary Suspension – Temporary separation from the university, prohibiting enrollment or campus presence for a designated period.
8. Disciplinary Expulsion – Permanent separation from the University and TSUS components.
9. Transcript Notation – Notation of disciplinary action on the student's transcript, removable after seven years (except for expulsion).

Residence Life Handbook

Residence Life provides additional guidelines for students living in on-campus housing in their Residence Life Handbook. Per Residence Life, the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the legal age is strictly prohibited.

Students who are of legal age for possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages (21+) may have alcohol, but it is limited to individual student residence hall rooms/apartments and areas specified in other published alcoholic beverage policies. Students of legal age who choose to consume alcohol in their rooms/apartments must keep their door closed. All residents and guests who are 21 years of age and choose to drink within a resident room/apartment are still responsible for their behaviors and abide by the Residence Life expectations and policies.

If both residents of a room/apartment are under 21 years of age, no alcohol may be consumed or possessed in that room/apartment. If both residents of a room/apartment are under 21 years of age, there can never be alcohol containers in the room/apartment, even if they are empty. Empty containers of alcohol may be considered evidence of prior consumption. At any given time, if there is a combination of 21(+) year old students (of which one must be an occupant of the room/apartment) and underage students in a room/apartment, there should only be one open alcohol container per 21(+) year old student. Each alcohol container must be disposed of before another is opened, otherwise, the minors in the room/apartment are in violation of the alcohol policy.

The University Police Department (UPD) will be called during every alcohol incident/violation.

For the first alcohol violation, students will be assessed a \$50.00 fine, required to take an online alcohol educational component at the student's expense, and referred to the Dean of Students' Office for possible further disciplinary action. Failure to complete the educational component will result in an additional fine of \$200.00 as well as Residence Life probation. A second alcohol violation will result in a \$75.00 fine, Residence Life probation, and a referral to the Dean of Students' Office for further disciplinary action. Any additional offense will result in a \$200.00 fine and immediate referral to the Dean of Students' Office. In addition, the housing contract will be terminated.

Additionally, any resident found in violation of the DRUG policy may receive the following sanctions: \$100 fine, educational drug course (at the resident's cost), referral to Dean of Students' Office, and further disciplinary action up to and including a contract termination. Residence Life reserves the right to require residents to be drug tested (at the resident's cost) based on the resident's involvement in the drug related incident. The occupants of the room will be responsible for all actions of guests whether the occupants are in the room/apartment at the time of the violation. If a drug violation takes place in a residence hall room or apartment, the occupants of that room/apartment may be fined \$100.00 for providing a habitat for illegal drug possession/consumption and/or violation of the Residence Life Drug Policy.

University Police Department – Alcohol and Drug-related Crime

The SHSU [University Police Department](#) (UPD) publishes daily activity log that notes all the offenses that they address throughout the year. All offenses listed take place on or near campus and most offenses are among SHSU students. UPD is responsible for enforcement of federal and state alcohol and drug laws. Data on alcohol and drug-related offenses reported by UPD is located on their main webpage by selecting Crime Statistics from their menu and selecting the location associated with Clery-specific geography and crimes required to be reported by the Clery Act. Statistics do not include arrests for public intoxication, driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated.

Be a Good SAM Policy

Under the Dean of Students' Office, The Be a Good SAM policy means that current SHSU students ***may be granted amnesty*** and avoid formal disciplinary action when they call for help during a suspected medical emergency related to illegal consumption of alcohol or drugs.

To be considered for amnesty, you must:

- ✓ Be the first person to call for help.
- ✓ Remain with the person and provide help as able until medical assistance arrives.
- ✓ Cooperate with emergency and/or law enforcement personnel on the scene.

A student who has followed the above protocol will be referred to the Dean of Students' Office to investigate the reported situation and determine if amnesty from disciplinary action will be granted. Students granted amnesty will still be required to participate in an educational component and will be referred to the Student Wellness office for this. If the student does not complete the required educational component, they will be referred back to the Dean of Students' Office for formal disciplinary action.

Clery Data

In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, previously known as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (20 USC § 1092(f), 34 CFR 668.46), the data provided includes data collected from five separate campuses (Main Campus, The Woodlands Center, the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pineywoods Environmental Research Laboratory, and the Gibbs Ranch Agricultural Complex). Please note that only the Main Campus includes Residential Facilities.

The [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report 2025](#) contains information for the 2025-2026 academic year and statistical information for calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024. Information has been provided for 2025, but the collection and review of any 2025 statistics is ongoing and subject to change.

This report contains information regarding crime statistics, procedures regarding campus safety, and fire statistics for SHSU. Previous reports and hard copies may be requested from the Office of Compliance and Insurance by phone at 936-294-1065 or email at CleryCompliance@shsu.edu.

Assessment of AOD Prevention Efforts

Assessment serves as a critical component in the evaluation of AOD prevention efforts at SHSU. During this biennial, Student Wellness conducted two different surveys that collect data associated with alcohol and other drug use.

In Fall 2023, Student Wellness utilized the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) through the American College Health Association to collect data about the health behaviors and perceptions of SHSU students. The NCHA has a specific section related to gathering data around the prevalence of alcohol and other drug use amongst the student population. A random sample was conducted of 10,000 undergraduate SHSU students (over the age of 18). Key results are identified below.

National College Health Assessment – Fall 2023 (n = 179 , response rate 1.8%)

- **Alcohol**
 - 55.4% of students indicated use of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, liquor, etc.) in the past 3 months.
 - 13.5% of students reported driving after having **any alcohol** in the last 30 days.
 - 78.8% of students reported 4 or fewer drinks consumed the last time they drank alcohol in a social setting.
 - Students who drank alcohol reported experiencing the following in the last 12 months when drinking alcohol: 16.8% brownout, 12.1% had unprotected sex, and 9.3% blackout.
- **Marijuana**
 - 29.6% of students indicated use of cannabis (marijuana, weed, hash, edibles, vaped cannabis, etc.) in the past 3 months **[reported non-medical use only]**.
 - 36.4% of students reported driving within 6 hours of using cannabis/marijuana in the last 30 days.
- **Tobacco/Nicotine**
 - 27.4% of students indicated use of tobacco or nicotine delivery products (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, Juul or other vape products, water pipe or hookah, chewing tobacco, cigars, etc.) in the past 3 months.
- **Impediments to Academic Performance**
 - 3.4% of students responded that alcohol use negatively impacted academic performance
 - 2.8% of students responded that cannabis/marijuana use negatively impacted academic performance

Low response rate to the NCHA does not allow survey results to be generalizable to the SHSU student population; however, the results are comparable to the national NCHA survey data for the same time frame.

In Fall 2024, Student Wellness utilized the Healthy Minds Study (HMS) through the University of Michigan to collect data about the health behaviors and perceptions of SHSU students. The HMS has a specific section related to gathering data around the prevalence of alcohol and other drug use amongst the student population. A random sample was conducted of 12,000 undergraduate SHSU students (over the age of 18). Key results are identified below.

Healthy Minds Study – Fall 2024 (n = 179 , response rate 5.8%)

- **Alcohol**
 - 48% of male identified students & 54% of female identified students indicated binge drinking 1 or more times in the past two weeks.
- **Marijuana**
 - 11% of students indicated use of cannabis products that include THC (including smoking, vaping, and edibles) over the past 30 days **[reported non-medical use only]**.
 - Of those students who use cannabis products that contain THC, 19% use every day and 11% use nearly every day.
- **Tobacco/Nicotine**
 - 12% of students indicated use of nicotine-containing products (cigarettes, nicotine vape, chewing tobacco, or nicotine pouches).

The response rate to the HMS is generalizable and comparable to other institutions that have conducted the study in the same time frame.

Strengths of AOD Prevention Program

Funding

AOD prevention programming is supported annually through the Student Health Services' operating budget on a yearly basis.

Peer Health Ambassador program

The Peer Health Ambassadors (PHA) offer peer-to-peer education on a variety of health and wellness topics, including alcohol and other drug prevention. Student participation has continued to grow regarding engagement with PHA programs over the past biennium.

AOD Education Given Prior to First Class Day

Bearkat Kickoff was launched in 2023 providing the opportunity for staff to educate students on a variety of topics, including alcohol and other drugs, prior to the first day of classes. The project will be tracked long-term to determine its impact on student's success and retention.

Narcan on Campus

Narcan is now available for students to pick up at the Student Health Center at no cost. Students will receive a brief training from a provider before receiving their Narcan. Additionally, Narcan can be found in the lobby of each residence hall on-campus and all Resident Advisor staff have been trained on the importance of Narcan and how to use it.

Get the Facts Campaign

The Student Wellness department created a new campaign in Spring 2024 called 'Get the Facts' to promote AOD prevention. The Spring semester campaign was focused on Delta-8 including its legality, risks, and harm reduction tips. Future campaigns will focus on alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs.

Sober Options On-Campus

Several campus departments provide programming on nights and weekends to serve as an alternative to high-risk drinking, including, but not limited to: Campus Activities & Involvement, Lowman Student Center, Campus Recreation, Residence Life, and Student Wellness.

Weaknesses of AOD Prevention Program

Lack of on-campus resources

The SHSU Counseling Center does not offer counseling services for students experiencing issues with alcohol or other drugs. They are referred off campus to community resources, which may be inaccessible due to cost, location, lack of transportation, etc.

Social media

Social media, including the emergence of TikTok, has increased focus on high-risk drinking behaviors. It has also created an avenue for social media users to learn about new methods of high-risk drinking and/or marijuana or other drug usage.

Campus culture

Student perception of alcohol and drug use on campus is typically much higher than the data shows. Social norming is an ongoing educational component of importance when discussing AOD prevention with students.

Changing climate on public opinion about marijuana use

Though marijuana use is not legal recreationally in the state of Texas, the legalization of marijuana in other states across the US has altered public opinion of the drug. Marijuana is seen as benign despite strict SHSU policies and federal, state, and municipal laws regarding use. Additionally, new legal forms of THC have gained popularity in the state of Texas, such as Delta-8.

No full-time DCFSA officer

The university has an Office of Compliance and Insurance; however, there is no designated compliance officer for the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act. DCSFA has previously been developed through the Student Wellness department with support from the Dean of Students Office and Residence Life regarding policies and procedures.

Opportunities for AOD Prevention Program

Difference in perception vs. reality of health behaviors amongst the student population

Perception of alcohol and drug usage amongst students at SHSU differs vastly from the actual number of students who engage in these health behaviors. The difference between perception versus reality in health behaviors amongst students at SHSU allows for the opportunity to educate students on social norms regarding these behaviors.

JED Campus

In Fall 2024, Sam Houston State University joined a network of over 500 colleges & universities as part of the JED Campus program in collaboration with the Jed Foundation (JED). As part of this program, SHSU underwent multiple assessments to outline areas of strength, as well as areas of opportunity. Under the strategic plan that was developed on behalf of SHSU's JED Campus advisor, areas around substance use prevention and intervention have been identified as action items. Action items include: recovery support, medication disposal sites, and targeted substances awareness training.

Collaboration with new campus partners/initiatives

Through JED Campus, Student Wellness has developed new partnerships with both Student Affairs and Academic Affairs partners providing opportunities for collaboration on AOD prevention that has not previously existed.

Texas Legislation

In 2024, the Texas legislature passed House Bill 3062. Under this HB, all institutions of higher education are required to provide trainings to all new, incoming students each semester with a focus on substance use prevention, as well as a specific highlight on opioids and fentanyl. Moving into the next biennium, the university is posed to provide both in-person and online education around these topics to a target audience.

Networking with other Collegiate AOD Programs through national organizations

SHSU has maintained a membership with the American College Health Association & National Association for Student Personnel Administrators. This network includes other professionals working in the field of alcohol and other drug use at colleges and universities throughout the country and allows the opportunity to learn and grow from other established programs.

More opportunities to engage faculty & staff

People Operations (Human Resources) offers assistance for alcohol & drug use through the [Employee Assistance Program](#) (EAP). However, there is not much other AOD prevention education for faculty and staff. The majority of AOD education and programming is tailored towards the SHSU student population.

Threats for AOD Prevention Program

Growing prevalence of THC products

In the state of Texas, THC products, such as Delta-8 and CBD, are legal statewide. Sam Houston State University is located in Huntsville, TX, and several local dispensaries have opened that provide CBD and Delta-8 for purchase. There is growing concern regarding student use of these products as they are not regulated. Additionally, students are overconsuming edibles containing THC products leading to hospitalization.

Fentanyl & Xylazine

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Illegally made fentanyl has been increasingly found laced into other drugs on the market, including marijuana. Fentanyl-laced drugs are extremely dangerous and lead to over 150 overdose deaths per day. Additionally, Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer, is showing up on the illicit drug supply chain and is being laced into other drugs.

With at least a quarter of SHSU students smoking marijuana, of which is not legal to purchase anywhere in the state of Texas, there are significant risks for this drug to be laced with fentanyl or xylazine. More information and training on these risks need to occur.

Lack of enforcement of no smoking policy on campus

Sam Houston State University has a robust [Tobacco Policy](#) designating SHSU as a smoke/vapor free and tobacco free environment; however, there is no true enforcement. It is not unusual to see members of the campus community taking smoke breaks or vaping while walking across campus. There continues to be a need of more awareness about the existence of the policy as well as enforcement measures put into place.

Part 86, Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations

Compliance Checklist

- 1. Does the institution maintain a copy of its drug prevention program?**
 - Yes, this document is stored on the Student Wellness departmental server, as well as on the Dean of Students' Office website at www.shsu.edu/offices-departments/dean-of-students.
- 2. Does the institution provide annually to each employee and each student, who is taking one or more classes for any type of academic credit except for continuing education units, written materials that adequately describe and contain the following?**
 - Standards of conduct that prohibit unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on its property or as a part of its activities - **Yes**
 - A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol - **Yes**
 - A description of applicable legal sanctions under local, state, or federal law - **Yes**
 - A description of applicable counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation or re-entry programs - **Yes**
 - A clear statement of the disciplinary sanctions the institution will impose on students and employees, and a description of those sanctions - **Yes**
- 3. Are the above materials distributed to students in one of the following ways?**
 - Mailed to each student (separately or included in another mailing) - **No**
 - Through campus post offices boxes - **No**
 - Class schedules which are mailed to each student - **No**
 - During freshman orientation - **No**
 - During new student orientation - **No**
 - In another manner (describe) - **All students and employees receive this information through e-mail at on or after the 12th day of classes each semester. Information is sent past the 12th class day to ensure that all currently enrolled students receive materials. The information is also kept on the Dean of Students Office website under 'University Policies.'**
- 4. Does the means of distribution provide reasonable assurance that each student receives the materials annually?**
 - Yes, an e-mail regarding the SHSU Alcohol & Drug policy is sent out at the beginning of every semester.

5. Does the institution's distribution plan make provisions for providing these materials to students who enroll at some date after the initial distribution?

- Yes, the e-mail regarding the SHSU Alcohol & Drug policy is distributed after the 12th day of class to account for late registrations and is always located under the "Alcohol and Drug Resources" page on the Student Wellness website.

6. Are the above materials distributed to faculty/staff in one of the following ways?

- Mailed**
Faculty: No **Staff:** No
- Through campus post office boxes?**
Faculty: No **Staff:** No
- During new employee orientation?**
Faculty: Yes **Staff:** Yes
- In another manner?** - Yes, all staff and faculty receive a copy of the materials through their e-mail at the beginning of every semester. The information is also always located under the 'University Policies' page on the Dean of Students Office website.

7. Does the method of distribution provide adequate assurance that faculty, staff, and students receive the materials annually?

- Faculty/Staff:** Yes **Students:** Yes

8. Does the institution's distribution plan make provisions for providing these materials to staff and faculty who are hired after the initial distribution?

Yes, as a component of New Employee Orientation faculty and staff are required to study the HR page that references certain state legislation. The Drug Free Schools and Communities notification is included among these laws. Furthermore, new employees must review all of these legislations and sign a form acknowledging that they have reviewed them. A signed version of this form is housed within the SHSU Human Resources department. All information is also always located under the 'University Policies' page on the Dean of Students Office website.

9. In what ways does the institution conduct Biennial Reviews of its drug prevention program to determine effectiveness, implement necessary changes, and ensure that disciplinary sanctions are enforced?

- Conduct student alcohol & drug use surveys?**
 - The Student Wellness office has conducted the National College Health Assessment in Spring 2022 and Fall 2023. The NCHA asks detailed questions regarding student alcohol and drug use behaviors. Additionally, SHSU conducted the Healthy Minds Study (HMS) in Fall 2024 with an intent to administer again in Fall 2028. This survey focuses on mental health and has a component focused on AOD behaviors.
- Conduct opinion survey of its students, staff, and faculty?**
 - No

- **Evaluate comments obtained from a suggestion box**
 - No
- **Conduct focus groups?**
 - No
- **Conduct intercept interviews**
 - No
- **Assess effectiveness of documented mandatory drug treatment referrals for student employees**
 - No
- **Assess effectiveness of documented cases of disciplinary sanctions imposed on students and employees**
 - Yes, through assessment of re-offender rates

10. Who is responsible for conducting these Biennial Reviews?

- The Director of Student Wellness

11. If requested, has the institution made available, to the Secretary and the public, a copy of each requested item in the drug prevention program and the results of the Biennial Review?

- Yes

12. Where is the Biennial Review documentation located?

- Digital version – Located on the Student Wellness department server
- Digital version – Located in the Office of Compliance and Insurance
- Digital version – Located on the Dean of Students webpage