

SHSU Biennial Review

AN OVERVIEW OF DRUG FREE SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES
REGULATIONS FOR 2021-2023

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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 21,445 students, eight 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 culturally aware, 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.

Since 2021, Bearkat Athletics have competed in seventeen NCAA Division I sports in the Western Athletic Conference and in July 2023, joined Conference USA.

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 2023 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, 2021 – August 31, 2023.

University Philosophy – Alcohol and Drugs

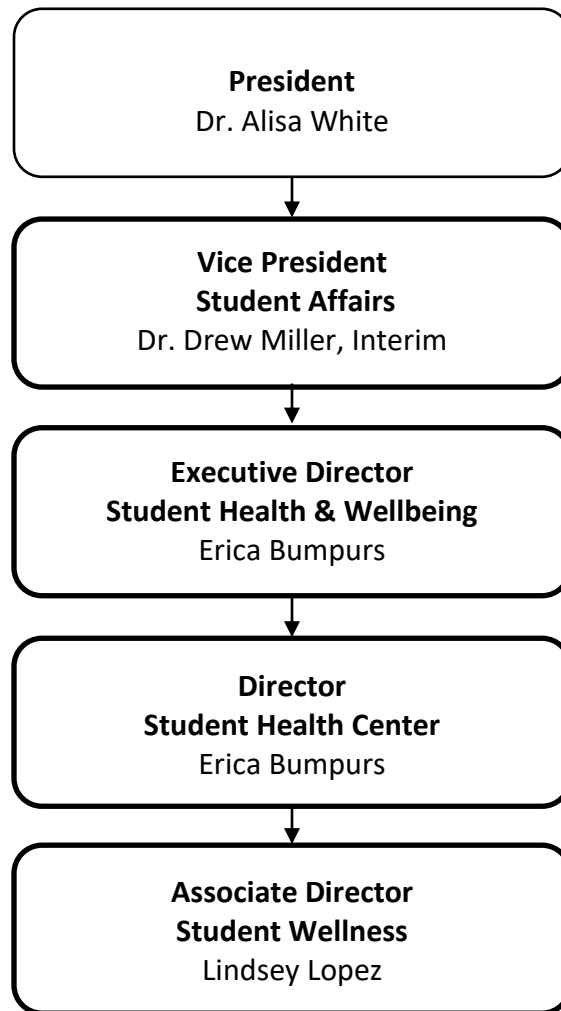
Sam Houston State University prides itself on providing the student body with a quality education in a broad range of different disciplines. Achieving the overarching academic goal of the University demands that SHSU provide a social environment that is conducive to the intellectual and personal development 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 six student employees/interns 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

Drew Miller

Vice President of Student Affairs, Interim

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

Erica Bumpurs

Executive Director, Student Health & Wellbeing

Director, Student Health Center

In Spring 2022, 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, and Campus Recreation.

Lindsey Lopez

Associate Director, Student Wellness

The Associate 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.

Student Workers and Interns

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. Prior to Fall 2023, SHSU community members were able to utilize the Program Request Form on the Student Wellness website; however, all requests are now done through 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
- Boos & Brews and PC Takeover – make a mocktail with Peer Health Ambassadors while learning about alcohol safety

Peer Health Ambassadors

In Fall 2021, the Peer Health Ambassador (PHA) group was absorbed by the Student Health Advisory Committee; however, there was significant attrition from the program amidst that change. Significant changes were made over the Summer of 2022, wherein Student Wellness re-absorbed the PHAs and hired a full-time Peer Education Specialist to focus on the development and growth of the students in the program. In Fall 2022, Student Wellness supported 5 PHAs and recruited 5 for the following academic year.

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.

KINE 2115 – Lifetime Health and Wellness

Student Wellness engages with the Lifetime Health and Wellness course (KINE 2115) instructors each semester. Online video lectures covering alcohol and drug use prevention, sexual health, and campus safety are covered. Additionally, each Fall semester, Student Wellness hosts their annual Fall into Health Fair, where KINE 2115 are invited to receive extra credit by engaging with campus health and wellness resources.

Each semester, roughly 2,500 students enroll in this course in lecture-based settings and through distance learning. In the state of Texas, health education is not a mandatory requirement in K-12. This avenue of connecting with students regarding AOD has numerous benefits, including:

- KINE 2115 is a required course for the majority of SHSU students, meaning that most students will receive basic alcohol and drug prevention education.
- KINE 2115 students are generally first-year students; however, higher level students may also enroll. The mixed demographic of the course is beneficial.

SAFE Week

In Fall 2021, the Greek Life (now Fraternity & Sorority Life) sponsored SAFE week, which is a series of events and activities designed to educate students of risky situations they may encounter during their time in college and how to make safe(r) decisions. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, alcohol and drug use, hazing, drunk driving, sexual assault prevention, and general campus safety.

3rd Millennium – THC 101

In Spring 2022, students who were found in violation of the drug policy involving marijuana were referred from the Dean of Students' Office to Student Wellness for enrollment in the THC 101 course through 3rd Millennium. In Spring 2022, 18 out of 28 students enrolled in the course completed the course within the required 30 days completion timeline. In Summer 2022, 4 students were referred with 2 completions.

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 & Traditions

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

Campus Recreation

[Campus Recreation](#) (formerly Recreational Sports) offers a wide variety of activities for student participation. The Recreational Sports 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, 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 newly renovated Kat Klub on the first floor of the LSC allows 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 selection 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.

Additionally, LSC staff host a variety of substance-free programs throughout each semester, including LSC Open House, LSC Takeover, Beach Bash, and more!

Student Involvement: Leadership & Service

[Student Involvement: Leadership and Service](#) (formerly Leadership Initiatives) empowers students to lead authentically by embracing individuality. They equip Bearcats to serve the greater good through community and cultural awareness. They offer opportunities for intentional involvement focused on student access and success.

Student Involvement oversees all SHSU's student organizations who offer opportunities to be engaged in substance-free programming. Additionally, Student Involvement hosts multiple service days throughout the academic year for student participation including Arbor Day, MLK Day of Service, and each semester, a Welcome Week service project.

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 was implemented a week prior to the start of the Fall 2023 semester where all first-year students were 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 in making an appointment with a department and to inform the department of a student being referred to their services.

Students of Concern Crisis Management Team

The Students of Concern committee 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 Students of Concern (SOC) Team 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 at [Students of Concern \(shsu.edu\)](#).

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 by 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

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 Traditions 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.

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](#). 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:

- Possessing, using, or distributing alcoholic/intoxicating beverages in a manner that violates TSUS or university policies or that would constitute an offense under appropriate federal, state, or municipal law.
- Possessing, using, selling or distributing any illegal drug or controlled substance.
- Possessing, using, or distributing tobacco, tobacco substitute, nicotine, or smoking-related products in a manner that violates TSUS or university policies or that would constitute an offense under appropriate federal, state or municipal law.

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 penalties 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 – A written notice to the student that a violation of a published university policy has occurred and that the continuation of such conduct or actions could result in further disciplinary action.
2. Restricted privileges – Denial or restriction of one or more university privileges granted to students. These may be but are not limited to: parking privileges, dining facility privileges, visitation privileges, use of university computers, computer facilities or systems; and participation in athletics or other extracurricular activities. Loss or restriction of privileges does not entitle a student to a refund of fees, paid or due.
3. Special project – The requirement that the student complete a special project, for example, writing an essay or attending a special class or lecture.
4. Restitution – Paying for physical or property damage, losses or misappropriation, either monetarily or by the performance of specific duties.
5. Cancellation of residence hall contract.
6. Disciplinary probation – An indication that the student is not in good standing and that their continued enrollment is contingent upon adherence to published university policies. Probation automatically restricts the following privileges:
 - a) A student on disciplinary probation is ineligible to be elected or hold any executive office of any student organization recognized by Sam Houston State University; and
 - b) A student on disciplinary probation may not represent the university in any special or honorary role.
7. Withholding an official transcript of degree.
8. Cancellation of pre-registered courses, prohibition against readmission or restriction from pre-registration.
9. Denial or non-recognition of a degree.

10. Loss of or ineligibility for a student grant or loan.
11. Deferred Suspension – Like disciplinary probation, an indication that the student is not in good standing and that their continued enrollment is contingent upon adherence to published university policies. In addition to the restrictions of disciplinary probation, it is understood that the subsequent violation shall result in suspension.
12. Suspension – Separation from the university for a definite term during which the student shall not be permitted to: earn university credit at Sam Houston State University, be on university-owned property nor participate in any university activity. A student who has been suspended from any Texas State University System (TSUS) component shall be ineligible to enroll at any other system component during the period of suspension.
13. Expulsion – Permanent separation from the university. A student who has been expelled from an Texas State University System component shall be ineligible to enroll at any other system component during the period of 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 abiding 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, referred to Student Wellness office for educational class, and referred to the Dean of Students' Office for further disciplinary action. A second violation will result in a \$75.00 fine, Residence Life probation, referred to Student Wellness office for educational class, 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 next disciplinary level. In addition, the housing contract will be terminated.

Prior to Fall 2023, students found in violation of the SHSU alcohol policy living on-campus were referred

to the Counseling Center to attend the SHARP program.

Additionally, any resident found in violation of the Residence Life drug policy will receive Residence Life disciplinary action, up to and including housing contract termination and a referral to the Dean of Students' Office for further disciplinary action. 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.

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 [Crime Statistics](#) webpage and is associated with their 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 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 4 separate campuses (Main Campus, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Center for Biological Field Studies, and The Woodlands Center). Please note that only the Main Campus includes Residential Facilities. In Fall of 2023, the Gibbs Ranch Agricultural Complex will be designated a campus according to Clery guidelines.

The [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report 2023](#) contains information for the 2023-2024 academic year and statistical information for calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022. Information has been provided for 2023, but the collection and review of any 2023 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. In Spring 2022, 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 5,000 undergraduate SHSU students (over the age of 18). Key results are identified below.

National College Health Assessment – Spring 2022 (n = 162 , response rate 3%)

- **Alcohol**
 - 75.9% of students indicated use of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, liquor, etc.) in the past 3 months.
 - 15.1% of students reported driving after having **any alcohol** in the last 30 days.
 - 74.1% 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: 19.4% brownout, 18.7% had unprotected sex, and 9.7% blackout.
- **Marijuana**
 - 24.4% of students indicated use of cannabis (marijuana, weed, hash, edibles, vaped cannabis, etc.) in the past 3 months [**reported non-medical use only**].
 - 47.4% of students reported driving within 6 hours of using cannabis/marijuana in the last 30 days.
- **Tobacco/Nicotine**
 - 29.9% 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**
 - 1.2% of students responded that alcohol use negatively impacted academic performance
 - 1.8% 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. The NCHA survey will be conducted again in Fall 2023.

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. Since the PHA program was re-developed by the Student Wellness office in 2022, student participation in departmental events and activities has increased significantly.

AOD Education Given Prior to First Class Day

Implementation of Bearkat Kickoff has provided the opportunity for staff to educate students on alcohol and drug prevention prior to the first-class day. The project will be tracked long-term to determine its impact on student's success and retention.

Addition of Educational Course to AOD Sanction

Throughout the academic year 2022-23, Student Wellness partnered with the Dean of Students' Office and Residence Life to develop an educational component for students who are being sanctioned for violation of the university's alcohol or drug (cannabis only) policies. The marijuana course was launched in Spring 2022. The alcohol education programs will be launched in Fall 2023. For a first offense, a student must complete a one-hour alcohol education program. For a second offense, a student must complete 2 one-hour BASICS session with a trained facilitator in Student Wellness.

Narcan on Campus

President White supported greater access to Narcan on SHSU's campus in 2022. Narcan is now available for students to pick up at the Student Health Center Pharmacy at no cost. Students will receive a brief training from the Pharmacist 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.

Campus Support

Alcohol and drug prevention efforts are supported by a variety of campus partners both within the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. There is a distinct commitment from staff overseeing high-risk populations such as Fraternity & Sorority Life and Residence Life to prioritize the need for AOD and other prevention programming.

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 & Traditions, Lowman Student Center, Campus Recreation, Residence Life, Student Involvement and Student Wellness.

Weaknesses of AOD Prevention Program

Lack of student engagement

The COVID-19 pandemic and shift to online programming impacted student engagement with on-campus events and activities from Spring 2020 through Spring 2021. Campus partners did see an increase in engagement as of Fall 2022, when students were 100% back on campus; however, engagement was still lower than pre-COVID years.

Staff turnover

Many departments on campus, including the Student Wellness office, had significant staff turnover in the last biennial. This creates the need to continually engage in collaboration with new partners on campus and re-build pre-established connections.

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. Additionally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kats 4 Recovery program through Student Wellness was disbanded due to low attendance.

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, such as black out rage gallons (also known as BORGs) that made an appearance on college campuses after its posting on Tik Tok.

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 discussion 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.

No full-time DCSFA 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 office; though for this current biennial review, a task force was developed to assist with the writing of the 2021-2023 biennial review.

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.

Reconstructing the Peer Health Ambassador Program

The Peer Health Ambassador (PHA) program was re-established as a program within the Student Wellness office in Fall 2022 under a full-time Peer Education Specialist. This position was established during the summer of 2022. As the Peer Health Ambassador program continues to grow, there will be continued opportunities to provide alcohol and drug use prevention education to a wider array of students on campus.

Collaboration with new campus partners/initiatives

As new staff members are hired at SHSU, there are continued opportunities to develop new relationships with campus partners to disseminate AOD-related education and establish partnerships for programming. Additionally, both the Executive Director of Student Health and Well-being and the Associate Director of Student Wellness serve as members of ELEVATE, the Healthy Campus Initiative, where activities and programs are developed to promote lifelong health behaviors amongst students, faculty, and staff, including behaviors related to alcohol and drug use.

Networking with other Collegiate AOD Programs through the American College Health Association

SHSU has maintained a membership with the American College Health Association. 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 marijuana use on campus

According to the SHSU NCHA Spring 2022 results, 36.2% of students reported ever using cannabis with 29.9% having used within the last 3 months. National NCHA Spring 2022 results show 33.2% of all college students who responded to the survey had ever used marijuana and 21.2% had used within the last 3 months. Although the SHSU survey administration had a low response rate, data shows that SHSU students are more likely to use marijuana than the national population of college student respondents.

Additionally, in Huntsville, TX, where SHSU is located, several local dispensaries have opened that have CBD and delta-8 for purchase. These products are not illegal for sale in the state of Texas, making access easier for students on campus.

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 needs to be more awareness about the existence of the policy as well as enforcement measures put into place.

Alcohol sales

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Abbott signed House Bill 1024, which allows alcohol to be sold to-go, by pickup, or delivered with food orders. Additionally, House Bill 1518 went into effect September 1, 2021, to allow persons to purchase beer and wine at grocery and convenience stores starting at 10am (previously 12pm). The increased access to alcohol sales continues to be an issue facing all public and private universities.

Part 86, Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations Compliance Checklist

1. **Does the institution maintain a copy of its drug prevention program?**
 - Yes, it is located at the Student Wellness office as well as on the website at www.shsu.edu/ohp.

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 Student Wellness website under the "Alcohol and Drug Resources" page.**

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 “Alcohol and Drug Resources” page on the Student Wellness 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 “Alcohol and Drug Resources” page on the Student Wellness 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 2019 and Spring 2022 with the intent to do so again in Fall 2023. The NCHA asks detailed questions regarding student alcohol and drug use 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 Associate 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?

- Hardcopy – Student Wellness, 801 Bowers Blvd #115, Huntsville, TX 77340
- Online version – Located on the Student Wellness' [Alcohol and Drug Resources](#) webpage