

Drug Free Schools & Campuses Regulations Biennial Review: 2022–24

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Office of Academic Compliance
& Student Support Committee

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Introduction Overview

The Department of Education, under the guidelines for the drug-free schools act, requires that each college campus complete a biennial review of the prevention efforts and methods used to achieve compliance with the act.

Location of Report

The biennial Report is housed in the Student Financial Services office and can be accessed at any time by request, as well as on the Clarkson College website. Past reports are kept on file in the Student Financial Services office and can be accessed upon request.

Distribution of Policies and Procedures to Students, Faculty, and Staff

The Clarkson College Drug and Alcohol policy is reviewed and/or revised on the policy cycle (every three years) by the: (1) Student Support Committee (reviews annually), (2) Faculty Senate Handbook and Policy Review Committee, (2) College Affairs Council, (3) Leadership Council, and (4) Clinical Compliance for final review and implementation. The review and revisions are made to remain as current as possible with the federal, state, county, and municipal laws. The Drug and Alcohol policy is distributed to students, faculty, and staff annually in the Academic Catalog on the Clarkson College website and the College intranet under policy and procedures. Each semester on census day, the annual notification is sent via email to all students, faculty, and staff who are enrolled or employed at the College. The email contains a copy of the current Drug and Alcohol policy and information related to (1) Current state and local laws related to the unlawful possession and distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, (2) Health risks of overconsumption of alcohol, (3) Alcohol counseling treatment or rehabilitation opportunities available to students, (4) A clear statement that the College will impose disciplinary sanctions and enforce applicable state laws, (5) as well as an overview of the amnesty policy around reporting unsafe conditions for students who are impaired.

Alcohol or Drug (AOD) Prevalence Rate, Incident Rate, Needs Assessment & Trend Data

Campus Drug & Alcohol Offenses

The following numbers have been collected since the last biennial (2022-2024):

Residential Offenses

There have been eight first offenses and no second offenses of the drug and alcohol policy in the Residence Hall. The sanctions for all first offenses were imposed as described in the Clarkson College Residence Hall Drug and Alcohol policy.

Non-Residential Offenses

There have been 4 Drug and Alcohol policy violations involving students in classes, clinical or on-campus, and the sanctions for violating the Drug and Alcohol policy were imposed.

According to the Nebraska Assessment of College Health Behavior (NACHB) (2024), 94% of Clarkson College students believe that the College is concerned about drug and alcohol use, with 90% stating that the Drug and Alcohol policy was consistently enforced. The sanctions for violating the Drug and Alcohol policy are as follows:

First offense

If the student tests positive for drugs/alcohol, the student:

- › Will be immediately administratively withdrawn from all laboratory/clinical/practicum courses but may be allowed to remain in theory classes (without co-requisite clinical courses) while undergoing required drug/alcohol treatment according to program requirements.
- › Must meet with a college-approved counselor and successfully complete the prescribed treatment plan.
- › Will be allowed to enroll in laboratory/clinical/practicum courses if the student is complying with their treatment plan and deemed as safe to return to clinical practice by a College approved counselor, a College counselor will complete the Approval Form: Student Return to Course (Appendix A) in the Drug and Alcohol policy.
- › Will be subject to random interval or scheduled interval drug/alcohol testing with or without cause for suspicion for as long as they are enrolled at the College.
- › May be ineligible to continue in the program of study if clinical agency placement is not possible due to the student's positive drug testing history.
- › May be administratively withdrawn from the College if the student does not comply with the treatment plan set forth by the College provided counselor or refuses subsequent drug and/or alcohol testing or has a second positive drug test.
- › The Vice President of Communications and Development (VPCD), the Director of Facilities, the Residence Hall Coordinator, or any Student Services counselor may notify parents of violations. Notification may occur if it is believed that the student is potentially a danger to themselves or others or is in danger of jeopardizing their academic career.

Second Offense

- › Dismissal from the College and forfeiture of any Clarkson College scholarships.
- › If a positive result is due to a legally prescribed medication:
- › The student must have the form signed by the prescribing health care provider stating why they have prescribed that medication. (Appendix B, VPAA Form 1 – Prescribing report in the Drug and Alcohol policy)

- › A list of all the medications the student has been prescribed should be included on the form and returned within seven (7) business days after the student is notified of a positive test. The form will be sent to the Office of the VPAA, which coordinates drug and alcohol results.
- › The medication list will be approved/disapproved by the counselor and/or College designee within three (3) business days.
- › If the College designee does not approve the medication list, it will be viewed as a positive drug screen.
- › The student will not be allowed to participate in the clinical setting until the proof of treatment process is completed.

Prevalence Rates for Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Since 2008, the College has utilized the Campus Climate Survey to assess AOD prevalence. As of 2020, the College revised the Campus Climate Survey in collaboration with Omaha Collegiate Consortium (OCC) to include an assessment of students' personal attitudes and behaviors related to alcohol, drug, mental health issues, and personal violence, i.e., drinking and sexual behaviors. The survey also assesses the individual's attitudes towards campus and community policies, other students' behaviors, and bystander interventions. The College has been using an interactive social norms-based instrument (YICBP) to assess new student perceptions of drug and alcohol use and harms since 2013. The YICBP requires new students between the ages of 18-21 to enter data regarding the perceived alcohol and drug use of Clarkson College students and asks them to assess their personal use, mental health, and self-reported harms. The survey provides feedback regarding actual use norms to respondents as they complete the survey. The data from the YICBP can be compared to the data assessed from the Campus Climate Survey to ascertain if students' AOD prevalence changes.

According to the 2024 YICBP, 13% of incoming students at Clarkson College reported using marijuana in the past year, which was an overall decrease since 2023 (23%). However, 27% of first-year students report never having used marijuana. About 39% of these students believe that their peers used marijuana at least 1-6 times per year, compared to the 30% who actually do. This finding indicates that students are perceiving others' use more accurately than in 2023. On the 2024 NACHB, Clarkson College students reported a very low to non-existent percentage of students who used meth, hallucinogens, opiates, and cocaine. In 2024 YICBP, less than half (43.8%) of incoming Clarkson College students abstained from alcohol use, which is a dramatic decrease from 2023 (72.7%), but more consistent with 2022's abstinent rate of 56%. Likewise, binge drinking was reported by 15% of first-year students which was an increase from 2023 (9.1%). According to the NACHB 2024 report, the majority (90%) of Clarkson students indicated that they consumed alcohol in the last year. This is a stark increase since 2022, when 68% of all students indicated that they consumed alcohol in the last year. However, overall one in four Clarkson students report currently abstaining, which is an overall increase from 2022. Clarkson students reported drinking about 1.4 drinks per occasion, a significant decrease from 3.2 drinks per occasion in 2022. Per week, students reported 2.3 drinks, down from 7 drinks compared to 2022. About 70% of Clarkson students (n=182) drank without bingeing, up from 64% in 2022, and 58% in 2020. Only 6% of Clarkson College students reported either infrequent or frequent bingeing, compared to 25% in 2022. Meanwhile, students reported drinking an average of 3 times per month, down from 4 times per month in 2022. This data appears to indicate that alcohol use increases during students' tenure; however, problematic and binge drinking is not as prevalent.

AOD Policy Enforcement & Compliance Inventory & Related Outcomes Data

Policy

The Clarkson College campus and residential policies encompass AOD violations in the classroom, laboratory, clinical area, and residence hall. The policy is based on education, prevention, and early intervention for persons at risk for substance abuse.

The Clarkson College policy outlines the specific sanctions for academic violations of the Drug and Alcohol policy. The sanctions are related to the impairment or suspicion of impairment in the classroom, laboratory, or clinical area. This policy has guidelines for staff, faculty, and administrators to follow if an incident occurs. The sanctions are oriented toward treatment and recovery. The policy allows for the early detection and treatment of potential problems with a return to the College for the student under certain conditions with the direction and recommendation of a licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

The policy also has an amnesty clause based on the Good Samaritan legislation in Nebraska. The clause allows amnesty for the reporter and student at risk for alcohol poisoning due to overconsumption. See the College Drug and Alcohol policy for further details.

Description of Programming

Drug and Alcohol Education

Student Support Committee

The Clarkson College Student Support Committee (SSC) supports and educates students, faculty, and staff about harm prevention and wellness-based topics. The SSC provides various education and prevention activities to students in sexual violence, drug and alcohol education, and mental health. Many of the College faculty award extra credit points or make the SSC events mandatory for their course to encourage students to participate. The SSC also participates in several other College initiatives, including involvement in New Student Experience, orientation, and policy writing (such as Title IX, Drug and Alcohol policy, etc.). Since 2022, the SSC has offered the following AOD programming:

- › Social Norms Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Education (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024)
- › Bystander Intervention Presentation (Fall 2022, Fall 2023)
- › Collegiate Recovery and Licensure (Fall 2022)
- › Domestic Violence Training (Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

Social Norms Campaign

Clarkson College has a successful social norm marketing campaign based on messages related to actual student-use norms. Student-use norms are determined after reviewing the results of the Campus Climate Alcohol survey developed by members of the SSC. Social norms are a concept that uses the surveyed norms within a student body to correct misperceptions as to actual AOD use rates. It is believed that correcting misperceptions will decrease student use of AOD. The campus social norms campaign informs students of the campus and community drinking norms. The social norms or the SSC work toward promoting and informing students about positive health norms through evidence-based social-norming techniques. The SSC hosts various events geared towards alcohol awareness and prevention for students.

Alcohol-Free Options

Clarkson College offers students a variety of alcohol-free events. The Student Center is available in the evenings for movies and sports at different times during the week. Throughout the academic year, multiple student activities, such as fitness classes, lunch-and-learn sessions, and off-campus excursions encourage alcohol-free participation. Students may watch TV, play use the multipurpose room, or sit and chat with peers. The Student Center also offers a Fitness Center available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Clarkson College has strong ties to the service-learning philosophy. Service-learning hours are a required piece of the curriculum in each of the programs at the College. Students are encouraged to participate and initiate community service opportunities independently.

Normative environment

Clarkson College creates a normative environment offering substance-free residential options to students who attend the College. The College has high academic standards for students. Students are allowed to make up missed tests in the Testing Center. Still, the test makeup exam is closely monitored for each student to observe possible behavioral trends. Students are encouraged to be present for exams and lectures, and many faculty deduct attendance points or conduct in-class activities that support student accountability.

Faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend all SSC drop-in sessions related to drug and alcohol education and prevention. All sessions are recorded for viewing later if they cannot participate in person.

The faculty members at Clarkson College are encouraged to achieve a high level of interaction with the students. The Clarkson College faculty are in close contact with the students due to the small class size and small groups for clinical education. The Nursing program is required by state law to have less than ten students to one faculty member in a clinical group. Due to the small clinical group size and the 12 hours per week with the clinical faculty for 12 or 15 weeks, the faculty and students can interact frequently and on a personal level. The Radiography program admits 40 students per year, which limits class sizes to no more than 40. The theory laboratory environment allows for a ratio of one to four or five per instructor. This high level of interaction allows faculty to be aware of behaviors that may be potentially high risk and guide the student to the resources at the College.

Availability of Alcohol or Drugs

Clarkson College does not allow alcohol anywhere on campus or at school-related events.

Marketing & Promotion of Alcohol

Clarkson College bans the publishing or posting of any alcohol-related media anywhere in the College or on College property. There are no alcohol industry sponsorships for any of the College activities.

Policy Development & Enforcement

The College enforces disciplinary sanctions for violations of any of the AOD policies. Campus security, RAs, and clinical education partners to criminally prosecute all prosecutable AOD offenses. The Omaha community enforces an immediate loss of driver's license for moving violations related to alcohol or drugs. The community strongly enforces laws pertaining to the procurement of alcohol for minors, with penalties

ranging from a fine to possible jail time. Minors attempting to buy alcohol can be fined, along with any shop-keeper who sells alcohol to a minor.

AOD Program Goals

Clarkson College AOD program has the following goals:

- 1. Provide information regarding healthy lifestyle choices to the College community.**
The College has continually used a social norms program since the fall of 2005. The program exists to provide information on students' specific positive health choices. SSC offers multiple sessions on healthy coping and lifestyle choices.
- 2. Provide support and student activities that allow students fun and exciting alternatives to drinking.**
SSC believes there has been success in promoting an atmosphere that does not encourage drinking. The committee believes there is room for improvement in student perceptions related to AOD enhancement of social activities and stress levels. Since the onset of the pandemic, information has been placed online to help the College community deal with the stressors healthily.
- 3. Promote and provide an environment free from AOD by implementing and enforcing clear policies.**
In 2024, 59% of respondents stated their campus provides information on alcohol and drug prevention, and 94% believed their campus was concerned about prevention of drug and alcohol use. Nine out of 10 respondents said that campus alcohol policies were consistently enforced. This is consistent with past data. SSC believes that the current policy has successfully maintained an atmosphere that does not promote the use of AOD.
- 4. Provide ongoing education for the campus community regarding the health effects of long-term substance use/abuse.**
The SSC has created programming for students on the health effects of long-term substance use and abuse in the form of drop in-sessions each semester. Clarkson College sent out information to all students regarding the health effects of AOD.
- 5. Provide the faculty and staff with ongoing education on identifying substances, behavioral indicators of acute intoxication, and signs of a student who is addicted to or abusing a substance.**
Faculty and staff are invited to attend a majority of SSC events.
- 6. Evaluate the relationship between high-risk drinking behaviors at Clarkson College concerning academic outcomes.**
The SSC reviews the data of students who have violated the drug and alcohol policy and follows the student through their academics at Clarkson College. Currently, if a student violates the policy, they are allowed to remain in on-campus courses. We believe that correlates to the resources (SSC and Success Center) the College provides.

Summary of AOD Program Strengths & Weaknesses

Strengths

- › The Clarkson College AOD program has backing from the College administration.
- › The program has a few motivated individuals educated in drug and alcohol education, prevention, and intervention.
- › The program has an adequate budget for marketing campaigns and activities.
- › The College population has been surveyed annually since 2000. This move allows collaboration regarding financial resources and the implementation of prevention programs, marketing campaigns, and education. The OCC provides data analysis of the surveys. The SSC reviews annual survey results for changes in normative beliefs and actual-use rates.
- › Membership and collaboration with OCC.
- › Full-time counselor role and responsibility to collaborate and be a member of OCC.
- › Compliance and College Support department included in SSC members.

Weaknesses

- › 1.No one person can devote over a few hours a week to the AOD prevention effort.
- › 2.Only a few individuals are strongly motivated toward prevention.
- › 3.Lack of consistent student volunteers to host prevention-based activities.
- › 4.Lack of funding to attend conferences related to AOD prevention programming.

Distribution of Annual AOD Notification to Students, Faculty & Staff

AOD notification was sent out via the student, faculty, and staff email service provided by Clarkson College.

Distribution of Policies & Procedures to Students, Faculty & Staff

The Clarkson College Drug and Alcohol policy is reviewed and/or revised annually. The review and revisions are made to remain as current as possible with the federal, state, county, and municipal laws. The Drug and Alcohol policy is distributed annually to students, faculty, and staff in the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook, and Employee Resource tab on the intranet. This information can also be accessed on the Clarkson College website.

Recommendations for Revising AOD Program

The SSC will annually review the AOD and make applicable changes.

