



Drug Free Schools & Communities Act Report Biennial Review 2024-2026



**State University of New York College of
Environmental Science and Forestry**

Introduction/Overview

Enacted in 1989, the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) has been instrumental in shaping substance abuse prevention efforts at institutions of higher education. The DFSCA requires colleges that receive federal funding to implement drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs for their campuses and notify members of their community of these initiatives and resources available.

This report details SUNY ESF's alcohol and drug prevention efforts during the period of 2024-2026. The following offices assisted in compiling the information for this report:

- Office of the Dean of Students
- Counseling Center
- Human Resources
- University Police Department
- Centennial Hall
- Financial Aid

For questions, please contact Renee McNamara, Dean of Students, at students@esf.edu or 315-470-6660.

ESF Demographic Information

ESF is a four-year public college, originally founded in 1911, and has an enrollment of around 2000 students. ESF's main campus is in Syracuse and operates eight regional properties that give students access to learning and research opportunities. Approximately 35% of undergraduate students live on-campus. ESF operates under the State University of New York (SUNY) system.

Overall Campus Prevention Efforts for Students

ESF encourages students to participate in alcohol and drug-free programming throughout the year. The College also provides education around harm-reduction regarding alcohol and substance use. At the beginning of each semester, the Office of Student Success & Engagement holds an "Involvement Fair" where students can learn about various engagement opportunities through student organizations and campus support services. We hope that by encouraging students to be an active part of the campus community, it will encourage healthy choices. ESF has 80 student organizations and special interest groups. ESF has a long-standing partnership with Syracuse University, which is located right across the street from ESF. This partnership includes the ability for ESF students to join the 350 student organizations offered through Syracuse University.

All new students are required to complete Party Science, as part of their onboarding process. Party Science is an educational online module that explores how alcohol, stimulants, and party drugs chemically interact with your brain's neurotransmitters. Party Science is a harm reduction model that teaches risk mitigation and intervention techniques to students.

Throughout each semester, many trainings and programs are conducted for students that are focused on dating, domestic, and sexual violence. Identifying the impact of alcohol and other substance use has on decision making, the ability of a person to give consent, and identifying the signs of a person who is intoxicated are discussed at these trainings and programs. Specific, directed conversation around making safer choices is emphasized. These programs have been implemented for first-year students, graduate students, Resident Assistants, Orientation Leaders, student athletes, organization leaders, and the general campus community.

Alcohol and Other Drug Programming

ESF offers a variety of programming related to alcohol and other drugs, including:

- Residence Life staff are trained on the protocols and procedures for incident management.
- All new students are required to complete Party Science, as part of their onboarding process.
- Training on the use of Naloxone by representatives from the Onondaga County Health Department is given to new Resident Assistants (RAs) and Residence Life Professional Staff. Each staff member gets a Naloxone kit following training, and there are extras at the front desk of the residence hall.
- Training is provided for RAs and Orientation Leaders (OLs) on the Student Code of Conduct, procedures and sanctions, as well as how to write up AOD incidents.
- Training is facilitated by the Dean of Students, and Counseling Center on their collaborative roles to RAs and OLs in terms of incident response, resources, and how to help students follow up with each office.
- RAs are trained in identifying situations of harm and how to intervene, especially in situations of sexual violence where alcohol or other drugs may be involved.
- At new student orientation, staff present information about the Student Code of Conduct, including expectations related to AOD.
- Information on support services available is presented to all incoming students at orientation.
- Division of Student Affairs offers late night weekend programming to create and highlight a social alcohol-free environment.
- Programs specifically designed to address alcohol and other drug usage are put on by the Health and Wellness Coordinator that include Wake and Bake Cannabis Trivia and the Mocktail Mixer, addressing healthy usage and safety tips for the usage of cannabis and alcohol, that are held on a semesterly basis.
- Weekly outreach efforts are done through the Health and Wellness Coordinator to provide awareness information on AOD content to the general campus community in connection to other health and wellness areas.
- Community partners are regularly on campus providing information about available resources, services, and information about AOD usage.
- Programs on the connection between alcohol and other drugs with domestic and sexual violence are made available for specific student groups and the general campus community.

Through our partnership with Syracuse University, ESF students also can attend programs and events on their campus related to AOD.

Collaborative Efforts in Support of AOD Prevention Initiatives

Counseling Center

ESF's Counseling Center provides support to students to help address potential reasons why students might choose to drink or misuse substances. The Counseling Center is able to work with students on setting goals to abstain or reduce their alcohol or substance use. The Counseling Center has the ability to refer to community-based resources and services if needed. The partnerships with community-based resources are imperative when working with a small campus like ESF.

Uber for Business Partnership

ESF partnered with Uber for Business in Fall 2023 to provide round trip transportation in and around the Syracuse area, to medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment. If students feel more comfortable going to an outside agency, ESF can connect them and provide transportation to and from all appointments.

Cannabis and Harm Reduction Consortium

Over twenty Colleges and Universities from the New York State area, including ESF, gather monthly to discuss prevention programming and best practices within supporting students. The Consortium allows schools a space to discuss new research regarding how to help students with problematic cannabis use and incorporate harm reduction strategies to support students on campus.

Community Policing

ESF University Police Department (UPD) is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment that is conducive to the educational mission of ESF. UPD is responsible for providing the ESF community with a safe and healthy environment in which to work, live and learn. UPD is engaged in the community and is here to serve public safety needs. The duties of the University Police include foot and mobile patrol, law enforcement, criminal investigations, medical emergency response, community relations, traffic and parking services and crime prevention. All UPD officers are trained to utilize Naloxone and have access to it at all times. UPD utilizes the Community Policing Model of law enforcement, which is a helpful attribute to our campus. The Community Policing model encourages officers to develop relationships with students, faculty and support networks within the campus community. Officers are equipped with resources and information about programs and counseling.

Human Resources Employee Based Alcohol and Other Drug Efforts

- All University Police Officers have received training on the use of Naloxone for suspected overdoses. Their patrol cars are equipped with a safety kit that contains basic first aid supplies as well as Naloxone doses.

- All employees have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).
- Employees receive information about the [Drug-Free Workplace Policy](#), which includes the prohibition of unlawful possession or use of a controlled substance(s) and alcohol at work. The policy outlines the potential penalties for violations of these rules.
- Employees are invited to attend programming on campus including Naloxone training.
- Drivers of College vehicles have their drivers' licenses run against convictions through the License Event Notification Service (LENS) program.
- Employee health insurance includes coverage for addiction/substance abuse treatment for covered persons.
- Any employee who seeks rehabilitation through an inpatient program may be eligible for an unpaid leave of absence in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act.

AOD Distribution Plan Procedures

The annual AOD Notice is emailed through the Office of Communications & Marketing to all employees and students, which includes those at our satellite campuses. The annual notice is posted on the Student Affairs website and the Human Resources website. Alcohol and Other Drug Policies are reviewed on a yearly basis and recommended changes or additions are submitted to the College's Executive Cabinet for review.

Alcohol & Other Drug Policy Development and Enforcement

Alcohol and Drug Amnesty Policy

The Alcohol and Drug Amnesty Policy is designed to increase students' willingness to seek medical attention for others (or themselves) who may need it due to the consumption of alcohol and/or other drugs. In doing so, this policy empowers students to take an active role in protecting themselves and others. The policy effectively eliminates disciplinary consequences for students seeking assistance. It should be noted that amnesty granted through this policy extends only to the ESF student conduct process.

Alcohol and Other Drug Use Amnesty in Sexual and Interpersonal Violence Cases

The health and safety of every student at the State University of New York and its State-operated and community colleges is of utmost importance. ESF recognizes that students who have been drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary) at the time that violence, including, but not limited to, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault, occurs may be hesitant to report such incidents due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. ESF strongly encourages students to report incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to ESF officials. A bystander or a reporting individual acting in good faith who disclosed any incident of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to ESF officials or law enforcement will not be subject to ESF's Code of Student Conduct action for violations of alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault.

Alcohol and Other Drug Use Policy

ESF is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all members of our community. The [Alcohol and Other Drug Use](#) policy is intended to articulate, affirm, and maintain community-wide norms that support abstinence and encourage low-risk choices regarding alcohol and other drugs; choices that will not compromise positive living, learning, and/or working experiences for each member of our community. This policy provides a framework for the College's approach to prevention and intervention, and defines acceptable and unacceptable behaviors with regard to alcohol and other drugs.

Prohibited Behaviors

The following are prohibited behaviors involving alcohol and other drugs on ESF's Campus per the [Code of Student Conduct](#):

10. Illegal manufacture, purchase, sale, use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances, or any other violation of the [ESF Alcohol and Other Drug Use Policy](#).

Possible Sanctions for AOD Related Policy Infractions

The following are potential sanctions for violating the Student Code of Conduct, sanctions include but are not limited to, parental notification, research or reflection papers, educational programs, community restitution, referral to an alcohol or other drug assessment (campus based) probation, potential criminal charges, suspension, and expulsion. Potential sanctions are outlined in the [Alcohol and Other Drug Policy](#) Sanctioning Guidelines document. Alcohol and Other Drug violation sanctions are determined by offense type, number, and severity of violations committed. Additional sanctions may be imposed as a result of non-compliance. Conduct holds are placed on the accounts of students who fail to comply with required sanctions.

Continuing Needs Assessment Data

Database Management

ESF utilizes a third-party student conduct tracking database (Maxient) to manage all incidents occurring on ESF's campus. This software provides an inclusive way to ensure that all incidents occurring on campus are documented, categorized in one central location and kept on file. Incidents, sanctions and hearing actions are organized in a manner that ensures all hearing officers and conduct staff can document incidents properly as well as document hearing outcomes and related sanctions. These records are kept behind an institutional firewall to ensure that we are protecting confidential student information.

Total Alcohol Cases= 35
Total Drug Cases= 11
Total AOD Cases= 46

The table above represents the total number of alcohol or drug related cases, and the total of both from the beginning of Fall of 2024 until the beginning of Fall Semester of 2026. The table

below represents the total number of students found responsible for each specific alcohol or drug policy violation within stated timeframe.

Student Conduct Data Fall 2022-Fall 2024 Students Found Responsible				
AOD Violation	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Fall 2025	Spring 2026
Alcohol related	7	1	11	3
Drug Related	1	0	3	4

Future of AOD Prevention

ESF has recognized the need for a more comprehensive plan for Alcohol and Other Drug programming. The current programming offerings will continue, and increased promotion of these programs will be prioritized. Additionally, an increase of data collection for issues related to alcohol and other drugs will enable us to identify needs for our campus that we can structure programming around.

With the addition of a Health and Wellness Coordinator and Peer Wellness Ambassadors, many new opportunities for structured programming have been identified that will be implemented. Programs that have been identified for development include:

- Programming targeting first-year students during orientation weeks on safer drinking habits.
- Harm-reduction frameworks and techniques for individuals who have identified as utilizing alcohol or substances.
- Sober events specifically timed for heavy drinking periods such as evenings, weekends, or holidays.
- Bystander Intervention programming for identifying signs of overconsumption or overdose.
- Identify culturally specific programming for AOD work.
- Develop programming connecting the chemical and scientific aspects of alcohol and other drugs to connect with the (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) STEM focus of ESF.

Furthermore, ESF will increase its connection and relationship with community organizations that specialize in substance use work and identify best-practices for engaging in more AOD Prevention work.

Assessment of Above & Program Data with Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: Increase awareness of how to report AOD incidents/ increase awareness of AOD policy
ESF has had the opportunity to hire new staff and faculty during this reporting period. We hope to increase training and reestablish the process of reporting by continuing to review AOD policies.

Areas of progress:

- ESF completed several AOD trainings for members of the campus community, including satellite campuses.
- ESF developed a centralized reporting site for all AOD incidents.

Challenges:

- Tracking off-campus incidents.
- Administrative structure of residence hall management can be a barrier in reporting.

Goal 2: Increase prevention efforts on campus.

Areas of progress:

- ESF offers Naloxone trainings on campus to first responders.
- ESF has implemented various new programs and events to address issues surrounding AOD.
- ESF has hired multiple student leaders with a focus on mental health and prevention work.
- ESF has built strong, collaborative relationships with community partners that focus on substance use.

Challenges:

- ESF does not have a health center to help with AOD prevention and programmatic efforts.
- Lack of data on student's usage of alcohol and other drugs to inform programming efforts.

Goal 3: Increase percentage of students who complete Party Science.

Areas of progress:

- ESF has remained consistent in that 70% of incoming students complete Party Science.
- ESF has developed incentive opportunities for completing Party Science.

Challenges:

- ESF's LMS (Learning Management System) is operated through our partnership with Syracuse University. This causes a delay in students having access to the course.
- Limited accountability for non-completion of course.
- Technological challenges.

Alcohol and Other Drug Program Strengths and Areas for Improvement

Strengths

- Hired a full-time Health & Wellness Coordinator who takes on prevention and education initiatives on-campus. This staff member is the first in this position.
- Hired peer ambassadors to assist with outreach and programming initiatives.
- Students of Concern Committee meets biweekly to identify at-risk students for intervention and support.
- With support from Mighty Oak Student Assembly (MOSA), Naloxone kits are available at various office locations, including Counseling Center, Office of the Dean of Students, and Moon Library.
- Naloxone training is required for all RAs and UPD officers.

- Strong collaboration between Community Standards and the Counseling Center for referrals for educational mandates and/or recommendations for counseling services for code violations related to AOD policies.
- All employees have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Areas for Continued Improvement

- Increase campus programming focused on AOD prevention efforts.
- Increase percentage of students completing Party Science online training by coordinating earlier outreach and consistent follow-up.
- Develop and implement a survey to collect data on student's use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Provide additional trainings to campus community members on how to report incidents of alcohol and other drugs.

Conclusion

At ESF, student safety and wellbeing are top priorities. We will continue to focus efforts on alcohol and drug prevention and programming, and to ensure that we comply with regulations laid out in Edgar Part 86 Drug Free Schools & Campuses Act. Our goal is to educate students on the potential harms of alcohol and drug misuse and implement prevention programming to meet the needs of our campus community. We look forward to evaluating our initiatives again in 2028.

For additional information please contact the Dean of Students, Renee McNamara, at 315-470-6660 or students@esf.edu.