



Drug Free Schools & Communities Act Report



**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 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 2022-2024. 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 40 registered student organizations. 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 Training in Responsible Alcohol Consumption (TRAC) online training as part of their onboarding process. This one-hour course, available online through Blackboard, empowers students to make healthy and well-informed decisions.

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.
- 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 University Police, 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.
- Through a partnership with a student organization, Naloxone Training is available for all members of the campus community.
- The Office of Student Success & Engagement offers late night weekend programming to create and highlight a social alcohol-free environment.
- 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 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 coordination, community relations, traffic and parking services and crime prevention. All UPD officers are trained to utilize Naloxone and have it on their person at all times. UPD utilizes the Community Policing Model of law enforcement, which is a helpful attribute to our students. The Community Policing model allows officers to develop relationships with students, faculty and support networks within the campus community. ESF students have often moved away from their family and support systems, which can cause feelings that may make students more susceptible to experimentation with drugs or alcohol. Subsequently, the experimentation with drugs and alcohol will expose them to contact with our UPD. By using Community Policing, the officers they encounter are equipped with resources and information about programs or counseling they can refer the students to.

Evidence Based and Indicated Prevention Efforts

AUDIT: Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test

The AUDIT is a method of screening for unhealthy, risky and/or hazardous consumption of alcohol. It can help identify alcohol dependence and specific consequences of harmful drinking. The AUDIT provides a framework for intervention to help students with unhealthy alcohol use reduce or stop alcohol consumption and thereby avoid the harmful consequences of alcohol. The AUDIT was administered to 156 students. According to World Health Organization guidelines, 88% of these students would be considered low risk for alcohol consumption. Of note, 29% scored 0 which indicates never using alcohol.

CUPIT: Cannabis Use Problems Identification Test

The CUPIT was designed to stimulate thought and discussion with cannabis users around the hazards of cannabis use. CUPIT is a proactive step in identifying students who may be at risk of developing use-related problems. The CUPIT was administered to 156 students, 26% of these students report using cannabis weekly or more, while 50% of these students reported never using cannabis.

Training in Responsible Alcohol Consumption (TRAC)

Incoming students are required to complete the Training in Responsible Alcohol Consumption (TRAC) online module as part of their onboarding process. This one-hour course, available online through Blackboard, empowers students to make healthy and well-informed decisions. 957 students completed TRAC during this reporting period.

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= 36
Total Drug Cases= 19
Total AOD Cases= 55

The table above represents the total number of alcohol or drug related cases, and the total of both from the beginning of Fall of 2022 until the beginning of Fall Semester of 2024. 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 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
Alcohol related	14	7	0	3
Drug Related	2	3	1	1

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 began offering Naloxone trainings on campus through a partnership with a student organization.
- 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 TRAC.

Areas of progress:

- Around 70% of incoming students complete TRAC.

Challenges:

- ESF's (Learning Management System)LMS 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

- Hiring a full-time Health & Wellness Coordinator who will take on prevention and education initiatives on-campus. This staff member is the first in this position.
- Hiring 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.
- Naloxone trainings are offered for all members of the campus community.
- 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 TRAC 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.
- Continue regular NARCAN trainings for campus members.

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 2026.

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