



**VCU**

Virginia Commonwealth University

**Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations [Edgar Part 86] Biennial Review:  
Academic Years 2020-2021 & 2021-2022**

Report Created by the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Committee

December 5, 2022

# Contents

I. Introduction	1
II. Background	1
III. Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Committee	1
A. Committee Charge	1
B. Committee Members during the 2020-2022 Biennium:	2
C. Committee Actions	2
IV. Overview of Efforts for AOD Prevention	3
A. Division of Student Affairs	3
a. Vice President for Student Affairs Office	3
b. Dean of Students Office and Student Assistance and Support Team (SAS Team)	3
c. VCU Recreation and Well-Being (RecWell)	4
d. Rams in Recovery / Collegiate Recovery Program	7
e. University Student Health Services (USHS)	7
f. University Counseling Services (UCS)	7
g. Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI)	8
h. University Student Commons & Activities	8
i. Fraternity & Sorority Life	8
j. Residential Life and Housing	8
B. VCU Human Resources – Education and Prevention	9
C. VCU Health System Human Resources	9
D. VCU Neighborhood Team	9
V. Academic Programs and Research	10
A. VCU Degrees and Courses Related to Substance Misuse Issues	10
B. Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies	10
C. College Behavioral Health Institute	10
D. The International Programme in Addiction Studies (IPAS)	10

VI. Measuring Student Behavior	11
VII. Campus Police and Enforcement	11
A. Policy Distribution	11
B. Policy Revision	12
C. Policy Enforcement/Disciplinary Actions	12
a. Student Conduct and Academic Integrity	12
b. VCU Human Resources and the VCU Health System Human Resources	12
c. VCU Police Department	12
VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations	14
A. Progress on the Recommendations from the Last Biennial Review	14
B. Recommendations for the 2022-2024 Biennium	16
IX. References	16
X. Appendices	17
A. Student Code of Conduct - interim	17
B. VCU Alcohol and Drug Policy	17
C. VCU National College Health Assessment Executive Summary 2020	17
D. Healthy Minds Survey 2021 Executive Summary	17
E. Tables of Student Conduct Alcohol/Drug Charges and Sanctions Issued	18

## **I. Introduction**

This document is the 2020-2022 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022) Biennial Review of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention programs. In accordance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, this report is written on a biennial basis in order to assure the AOD standards of conduct (as outlined in the VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy) are enforced consistently throughout the University. Recommendations for revising AOD programs are included. This report is written by the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Committee and approved by the University Provost and President.

## **II. Background**

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (1989) mandates that institutions of higher education implement AOD education and prevention programs for students and employees as a condition of receiving federal funds. The law stipulates that institutions of higher education develop, distribute, and enforce policy related to unlawful or unauthorized alcohol and other drugs manufacture, use, dispensation, possession, and distribution. In addition, it states that institutions of higher education must review their prevention programs biennially to determine their effectiveness and to determine the consistency and fairness of alcohol and other drugs policy enforcement. VCU also complies with the Drug Free Workplace Act (1988), which prohibits illegal drug or alcohol-related activity by employees in the workplace.

Since the inception of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Committee at VCU, a minimum of sixteen biennial reviews have been conducted. With each review, it was determined that AOD policy was being enforced fairly and consistently within the university and that a wide range of prevention programs were in place. Recommendations were made by the committee in those reviews to enhance policy application and prevention programming. Biennial Reviews are kept for a minimum of ten years and are available upon requests from the VCU Recreation and Well-Being (RecWell).

## **III. Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Committee**

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Committee (AODAC) was created in 1989 by the VCU Provost with the charge of overseeing university policy issues concerning alcohol and other drugs. The committee wrote the "VCU Alcohol and Other Drug Policy" that complies with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Regulations Part 86.

### **A. Committee Charge**

AODAC is charged by the Provost with:

- Conducting the biennial review of VCU's AOD prevention programs to determine program efficacy and make recommendations to changes in programming if necessary.
- Ensuring that the disciplinary actions described in the VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy are consistent and fairly enforced.
- Submitting a report to the Provost that includes recommendations for strengthening VCU's prevention/support programs, intervention programs, and disciplinary procedures.
- Assisting with the implementation of approved recommendations by consulting with appropriate academic or administrative units.

- Overseeing the VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy revisions as needed, with input from other university organizations, including the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association, and Human Resources.

## **B. Committee Members during the 2020-2022 Biennium:**

The following is the committee membership of the AODAC during the time period when this report was compiled.

Derek Hottell (Chair):	Director, RecWell
Jihad Aziz:	Interim Assistant Vice Provost for Wellness; Director, University Counseling Services
Tom Bannard:	Coordinator, Rams in Recovery
Karen Belanger:	Director, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity
Danielle Dick:	Commonwealth Professor of Psychology and Human and Molecular Genetics
David Greene:	Director, University Student Commons and Activities
Ishnelia Moore:	Director of Employee Relations and Performance Management, VCU Human Resources
Kendall Plageman:	Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Gavin Roark:	Director, Residential Life and Housing
Trisha Saunders:	Interim Associate Director
B.J. Shelton:	Assistant Vice President for Team Member Experience, VCU Health
Tricia Smith:	Assistant Professor, Biology
John Venuti:	Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Chief of Police, VCU and VCU Health

## **C. Committee Actions**

During the 2020-2022 biennium, AODAC encountered a number of issues related to the disruptive nature of the pandemic and alteration of university life. In addition, a number of key committee members, including the committee chair, left the university during the 2020-2022 period of time. The committee is currently in a rebuilding stage. Fortunately the university did move forward with a number of recommendations related to the prior biennial review and the annual distribution of the VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy.

## IV. Overview of Efforts for AOD Prevention

The following are prevention, early intervention and recovery support efforts currently in place at VCU for the 2020-2022 biennium. These efforts have evolved throughout the years to keep pace with best practices and to further research in the field of harm reduction. Many different divisions and groups at VCU such as the Division of Student Affairs, the Center for Community Engagement and Impact, the Division of Academic Affairs, VCU Police Department, Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, VCU Human Resources, VCU Health System, and VCUHS Human Resources all play a crucial role in prevention/intervention efforts. The Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Committee strives to share information between these key groups. The Division of Student Affairs houses most of the efforts targeting students. These student-focused offices include RecWell, University Counseling Services, University Student Health Services, Residential Life and Housing, University Student Commons and Activities, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, and the Dean of Students' Office.

### A. Division of Student Affairs

The majority of offices working on AOD prevention, intervention, and recovery for VCU students are housed in the Division of Student Affairs (DSA).

#### **Vice President for Student Affairs Office**

Dr. Chuck Klink, serves on the executive council of the Virginia Higher Education Substance Abuse Advisory Committee (VHESUAC). The [VHESUAC](#) provides statewide coordination for higher education on substance misuse education, prevention and intervention; coordinates statewide data collection; and establishes reporting guidelines for such institutions. The VHESUAC report for fiscal year ending on June 30, 2021 is available at the following link: <https://www.hes.edu/library/education/pdfs/fy21-vhesuac-annual-report.pdf>

#### **Dean of Students Office and Student Assistance and Support Team (SAS Team)**

The Dean of Students Office aims to help students chart a path toward success, overcome barriers as they arise, and ensure that the proper support services are utilized as needed. The Dean of Students office advocates for and assists students dealing with life situations that are impacting their academic and personal success at VCU. In addition to advocating for individual students, the Dean of Students office engages with student organizations, faculty, staff, and community partners to identify and address collective student concerns.

The Student Assistance & Support (SAS) Team is coordinated by the Dean of Students Office and serves the university and individual students by coordinating prevention, intervention, and support efforts to assist students involved in psychological distress, inappropriate behaviors, and harm to self. The SAS Team provides a centralized mechanism to review concerns and address the needs of students through a variety of interventions, referrals and follow-ups. The team is composed of key personnel from the Division of Student Affairs, University Counseling Services, University Student Health Services, Student Conduct & Academic Integrity, Residential Life & Housing, the Recreation and Well-Being, VCU Police, Academic Affairs, and other units as deemed appropriate. The team meets weekly and is available to faculty, staff, or students for case consultation to address significant student situations. Concerns are submitted via the [online report form](#) or by emailing [vcudean@vcu.edu](mailto:vcudean@vcu.edu).

Data regarding disciplinary matters is kept within Maxient, a secure reporting system with varying levels of access for stakeholders throughout the Division of Student Affairs. This database has been in use since 2012, and it is now the central location for all disciplinary matters.

## **VCU Recreation and Well-Being (RecWell)**

In July 2021, the former Health Promotion and Well-Being Center (The Well) integrated with VCU Recreational Sports (Rec Sports) to become a new department, VCU Recreation and Well-Being (RecWell). RecWell was created to leverage the strengths and resources by bringing together two separate departments with the same vision of making VCU a healthier and happier place to learn, work and grow.

While most of the core efforts of both Rec Sports and The Well related to alcohol and other drugs were retained, some projects were changed or expanded to better align with the new Recwell departmental strategic plan and staffing structure. Staff within RecWell identified key departmental goals and outcomes that guided the subsequent work related to alcohol and other drugs prevention and early intervention efforts during the current biennium. Key RecWell outcomes related to preventing alcohol and other drug use related harm among students and the VCU community are included in this review.

- **Help develop students into more effective, healthful leaders and team members in all aspects of their lives.**
  - a. Peer Health Education (PHE):
    1. During this biennium, RecWell continued to grow its PHE program by recruiting and training 14 new Peer Health Educators in 2020-2021, maintaining a group of between 22-25 active students during the biennium. One of the main focus areas of the Peer Health Educators during this time was to facilitate peer-to-peer education related to alcohol and other drugs. The Peer Health Educators facilitated 110 virtual and in-person programs on a variety of topics such as alcohol and other drugs, mental health, and well-being during this biennium.
    2. In Spring 2022, RecWell partnered with the VCU School of Education to pilot courses for a potential new Recreation and Wellness minor. RecWell designed the curriculum for and taught a 3-credit academic course titled “Concepts in Peer Health Education,” which served as a training and certification course for students interested in becoming Peer Health Educators with RecWell. 14 students enrolled in the course in Spring, 2022. 12 of those 14 students were recruited into the PHE program upon successful completion of the course.
- **Contribute to the overall well-being of our VCU community through fun, safe, and health-sustaining policies, programs, practices, and spaces.**
  - a. RecWell provided safer spaces and alternatives to alcohol and other drug use through staffing late-night hours and providing innovative programming. Cary Street Gym and the MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center were both open for late night hours throughout the week. The department also intentionally offered facility reservations and co-programmed activities for Fraternity and Sorority Life and other student groups on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights to provide alternative programming for traditionally high-risk populations during traditionally high-risk times. The indoor climbing wall, Outdoor Adventure Program (OAP) off campus recreation trips (held most evenings and weekends), and intramural sports offered students an opportunity for low

or no cost alternatives to using alcohol or other drugs. To further make this connection, intentional programming was continued among OAP, Rams in Recovery, and University Counseling Services for students who are in various stages of recovery. Finally, policies for RecWell sport clubs, another traditionally high-risk population, continued to not permit any alcohol use by any members, whether of legal drinking age or not, during practices, meetings, sanctioned travel, or matches.

b. New Student Orientation

1. New Student Orientation in 2020 and 2021 was conducted virtually online. As an alternative to in-person sessions, RecWell partnered with staff from New Student Orientation to train orientation leaders and create specific messaging and online programs for new students during orientation related to alcohol and other drugs.
2. In Fall 2021, the Division of Student Affairs procured and RecWell administered the AlcoholEdu online course to all new to VCU first year and transfer students. This course will continue to be required for all new incoming VCU first-year and transfer students. Results from program participation are detailed each year in a separate AlcoholEdu report. AlcoholEdu is listed on the NIAAA CollegeAIM matrix as a highly effective individual intervention strategy related to alcohol and other drug use (NIAAA, 2019).

c. Online Education

1. Due in part to the demand for online and virtual resources as a result of the global pandemic, RecWell launched several Health Foundations Learning Modules during this biennium designed to provide self-paced learning on topics such as alcohol, bystander engagement (created in collaboration with VCU Advocacy Services), and well-being.
2. More than 300 students accessed these modules between 2021-2022. RecWell partnered with VCU Athletics, Peer Leaders, and Fraternity and Sorority Life to encourage key populations to complete the modules. The modules were assessed through post-test assessment using both quantitative and qualitative measures, and direct assessment methods.
3. The Protecting The Herd: Bystander Engagement Module was assessed tracking changes by participants using a pre-assessment to the post-assessment.
  - a. A paired-samples T-test in SPSS showed a slight overall increase across each measured domain (knowledge of how to intervene, personal responsibility to intervene, confidence in ability to intervene, and behavioral intention to intervene if the need should arise) from pre to post-assessment. These overall mean changes were statistically significant at  $p < .001$ , indicating that participation in the modules helped to increase the likelihood that VCU students will intervene.
  - b. More than 50% of students completing the Know Your Solo: Alcohol and Other Drugs and the Protecting The Herd: Bystander Engagement and Helping Behavior modules were student athletes. As a result of these modules, 93% of participants indicated that they could recognize the signs of alcohol overdose and that they know how to help a friend if they have had too much to drink.



- **Provide participants with the knowledge, mindset, and skills required to thrive at VCU and beyond.**
  - a. Educational Programming: In addition to the sustained programming provided by RecWell PHE's, RecWell staff also continued to provide targeted educational programming related to alcohol and other drug use education and harm reduction on request throughout the biennium, facilitating 20 additional alcohol and other drug standalone programs.
  - b. Social Norms Marketing:
    1. Funding: RecWell continued to receive grant funds from the [National Social Norms Center](#) (formerly the National Social Norms Institute) to run a Social Norms Marketing Campaign related to alcohol consumption at VCU during the biennium. However, due to the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, funding was reduced from previous years.
    2. Passive Messaging: The objective of this campaign each year is to reduce the discrepancy between perceived and actual behavior related to alcohol consumption among VCU students by providing researched, consistent, and engaging norms messages using a multifaceted social norms marketing approach. During the 2020-2022 Biennium, the Stall Seat Journal (SSJ), a poster focused on social norms marketing, was posted monthly in over 1,400 bathrooms across both campuses during the semester, with several special editions tailored to first year students in residence halls posted in Fall 2021. Other special editions were created in collaboration with graduate and professional student leaders and posted on the MCV Campus for graduate and professional students. The Stall Seat Journal has extremely high market saturation, with over 90% of VCU students reading some or all of the editions and having a high level of recall of the alcohol related messages. Campaign messages are created using National College Health Assessment (NCHA) data, and data from the National Social Norms Center's UCelebrate Survey conducted at VCU in 2019. RecWell created and sustained the "Have You Herd?" campaign with additional posters and norms messages circulated in various facilities, on social media, and across other digital platforms.
  - c. BASICS/CASICS
    1. RecWell, in partnership with University Counseling Services, continued throughout the 2020-2022 biennium to provide the Brief Alcohol and Cannabis Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS/CASICS) program, serving over 200 unique students during this time. This program was offered primarily to students who were sanctioned for violating VCU's Alcohol and Other Drugs policy and includes a self-assessment and one-hour sessions of one-on-one, personalized motivational enhancement sessions with a BASICS/CASICS facilitator. BASICS/CASICS is listed on the NIAAA CollegeAIM matrix as a highly effective individual intervention strategy related to alcohol and other drug use (NIAAA, 2019).

## COVID-19 Impacts

While many of the activities and operations related to alcohol and other drugs prevention were impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, RecWell still continued to provide quality education and support. Alternative programming opportunities such as digitally circulating editions of the Stall Seat Journal and hosting live education on Instagram and Twitter were used to ensure widespread exposure to alcohol and other drugs messaging. Similarly, messages related to

alcohol and other drugs were tailored to ongoing concerns related to patterns of use during the pandemic. As an additional alternative, the Social Norms Think Tank, comprised of professional and student staff, produced a bi-weekly podcast in 2020-2021 entitled, "What The Well?," to reach students who were not on-campus and learning remotely during the pandemic.

### **Rams in Recovery / Collegiate Recovery Program**

Rams in Recovery has quickly grown to be the largest Collegiate Recovery Program in the state of Virginia with more than 60 active students. Recovery supports have continued to grow substantially on the campus, and they now include 14 recovery meetings on campus per week and a Family Education Program that is open to the community. The recovery program has trained more than 1,000 faculty, staff, and students in an innovative three hour "Recovery Ally" Program and has led campus wide efforts to train more than 1,000 people to use the lifesaving drug Naloxone. Rams in Recovery provides coursework, programming, a dedicated space, activities, recovery housing, and recovery advocacy for students. Additionally, two years ago, Rams in Recovery created a seminar and scholarship program called The Recovery Scholars. The program has grown to 35 students who participate in weekly supportive seminars with their peers and receive a scholarship each semester.

The Program Coordinator sits on the Executive Board of the Association of Recovery in Higher Education (ARHE), and two VCU Students also serve on the Board. The Program Coordinator also sits on the Governor's Advisory Board for Opioids and Addiction. Additionally, Rams in Recovery received a \$675,000 grant through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to expand Collegiate Recovery at eight schools throughout the state of Virginia. Through this grant, Rams in Recovery was able to hire a full-time Assistant Coordinator and is leading efforts to expand its scholarship program to schools across the state.

Rams in Recovery moved into its own independent space in July 2020 and hosted the 2021 Association of Recovery in Higher Education National Conference. Rams in Recovery adapted programming quickly to the pandemic, moving meetings and seminars into virtual spaces and increasing the frequency of individual follow ups with students. The seminar returned to in-person hybrid format in September 2022 with approximate average attendance of 70 students.

### **University Student Health Services (USHS)**

University Student Health Services provides support to students by including substance use screenings as part of the assessment process during initial patient visits. USHS also routinely screens for substance use during mental health visits. Staff provide brief interventions, education, and referral to treatment as indicated. Students can receive support with nicotine use reduction or cessation through nicotine replacement therapy and brief sessions to discuss strategies and treatments. Additionally, USHS offers appointments, by referral, with a psychiatrist that can address mental health concerns that may be impacting a student's use of substances.

### **University Counseling Services (UCS)**

- Individual Counseling: University Counseling Services (UCS) provides brief treatment for enrolled students with mild substance use disorders as appropriate. Students who present with moderate or severe substance use disorders are referred to external community providers.

- Secondary Prevention: In coordination with RecWell, a clinician from University Counseling Services provided follow up meetings for BASICS and CASICS.

### **Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI)**

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity administers the Student Code of Conduct and the VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy as they pertain to student conduct. If students are found to have violated university policy, the office may refer them to an alcohol education program as a component of their University sanction. The Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students is responsible for administering the [Procedure for Parental Notification of Alcohol/ Other Drug Policy Violations](#) - his designee, the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, notifies parents/guardians of students under the age of 21 who are found responsible for violating alcohol or other drug policies.

- RAMS L.E.A.D: In Fall 2013 Student Conduct and Academic Integrity introduced a program on ethics and decision making. RAMS L.E.A.D. (Learning Ethics and Decision-making) consists of two, one-hour class sessions designed to help VCU students develop their own personal and ethical decision making and relate those to their long- and short-term goals. The class utilizes presentations, in-class activities and discussions, as well as assignments outside of class to assist students in this development. Students who successfully complete the program are better able to examine their own decisions and goals as well as understand and articulate the responsibility of being a VCU community member.
- A position was added to address organizational conduct including alcohol and other drug misuse as well as establishing a weekly organization case coordination team.

See Appendix E for complete data regarding AOD related student conduct cases and sanctions.

### **University Student Commons and Activities**

The University Student Commons and Activities houses hundreds of student organizations, provides leadership and volunteer opportunities for students, and offers evening and weekend programming that is alcohol free.

### **Fraternity and Sorority Life**

In March 2021 the Senior Vice Provost for Student Affairs launched a comprehensive review of Fraternity and Sorority Life at the university after the tragic death of student Adam Oakes related to alcohol poisoning. Fraternity and Sorority Life became a separate unit in the Division of Student Affairs reporting to an Associate Vice Provost (previously it was part of University Student Commons and Activities). A director for the unit was hired and efforts were undertaken to strengthen alcohol and hazing training, disseminate information to increase awareness of the alcohol amnesty policy, and enhance health and safety for members of the FSL community.

### **Residential Life and Housing**

Annually, Residential Life and Housing (RLH) addresses the topic of alcohol and drugs proactively through orientation presentations, floor meetings, and educational programming throughout the year, and reactively through conduct meetings and student follow ups. The RLH staff receives specific training each August and January around recognizing the presence and/or use of illicit drugs and alcohol in their communities and addressing the behavior through education and

accountability. Sanctions levied by RLH for violations of the alcohol and drug policy provide opportunities for reflection, education regarding policy expectations and risk reduction, and connection with campus partners (RecWell). These sanctions typically include probation, deferred contract cancellation and/or loss of housing privileges, an alcohol/drug education class, and reflective papers. RLH and Student Conduct and Academic Integrity track drug and alcohol related infractions in Maxient and refer students to appropriate resources. See Appendix E for complete data regarding AOD related student conduct cases and sanctions.

## **B. VCU Human Resources – Education and Prevention**

- VCU Human Resources provides alcohol and other drug policy information, education, consultation, and referrals for VCU employees. The university's Alcohol and Other Drugs policy was updated in December 2021.
- Consultations with Employee Relations specialists are provided to assist managers who have employees with potential substance misuse problems. Problem behaviors are addressed through counseling and disciplinary action. Staff may also meet with employees who divulge a substance misuse problem and refer them to VCU Human Resources for information on benefits, leave, the [Employee Assistance Program](#), or appropriate community resources for assistance. Employees are also referred to [RamStrong](#) for mental health and wellbeing resources.
- Employee Health Services' staff work with managers and Human Resources to assess issues and options regarding employees potentially misusing substances. Such assessments may include drug or alcohol testing, counseling, and referral. The staff also provide education regarding potential misuse symptoms and resolution of alcohol and other drug issues in the workplace. The Employee Health Services Director also serves as the Medical Review Officer for the VCU Health System's pre- placement drug testing program.

## **C. VCU Health System Human Resources**

VCU Health System Human Resources' (VCUHS) staff consult with managers who have employees with potential substance use disorders. Problem behaviors are addressed through counseling, discipline, and referrals to treatment programs including the Health System's EAP (Employee Assistance Program) or [Helplink](#), as applicable or appropriate on a case by case basis. Helplink is a free and confidential counseling service that is contributed through the Department of Psychiatry as a benefit for VCUHS employees and their family members who may have substance misuse and other emotional, psychiatric, or behavioral problems.

Licensed staff suspected of substance use problems are also referred to the Health Practitioners Monitoring Program, which is an impairment monitoring program created by the General Assembly to assist healthcare providers in addressing substance misuse and other impairment issues with the goal of helping them return to safe practice.

## **D. VCU Neighborhood Team**

Led by VCU's Center for Community Engagement and Impact (CEI), the Neighborhood Team is comprised of various departments that are in daily contact with students, such as VCU Police and Off-Campus Student Services.

Nine neighborhood liaisons represent VCU's surrounding neighborhoods and meet regularly with the neighborhood team to discuss issues of concern and opportunities for collaboration. Jointly, the team attended more than 50 area neighborhood association meetings annually.

The surrounding community is invited to the Monroe Park Campus Neighborhood Forum, highlighted by remarks from VCU president Michael Rao. University leaders update the community on academics, collaborative programming, and capital improvements. Other community meetings to elicit community input are scheduled as needed and are often related to capital plans or the Master Plan.

Neighborhood beautification and cleanup projects and the community work study program continue to provide mutually beneficial opportunities for student-neighborhood collaboration.

## **V. Academic Programs and Research**

### **VCU Degrees and Courses Related to Substance Misuse Issues**

Many VCU academic departments offer courses both on the undergraduate and graduate level for alcohol and other drug related issues. Some departments offer a few courses with related content and several schools within the University provide a comprehensive education about contemporary issues. For a listing of courses, visit <https://www.vcu.edu/academics/>

### **Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies**

The Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies seeks to explore the complex problems of drugs through multidisciplinary research and training, with a focus on the neuroscience of addictions and related neurobehavioral disorders. For more information, visit <https://idas.vcu.edu/about-us/>

### **College Behavioral Health Institute**

The College Behavioral and Emotional Health Institute (COBE) grew out of the Spit for Science study, a university-wide research project focused on substance use and emotional health outcomes in college populations. COBE's mission is to promote behavioral and emotional health among young people through the integration of research with coursework, programming, and policy. For more information on COBE's activities, visit <http://cobe.vcu.edu/>

### **The International Programme in Addiction Studies (IPAS)**

The International Programme in Addiction Studies (IPAS) is a unique collaboration of three of the world's leading research universities in the field of Addiction Science: King's College London, the University of Adelaide, and Virginia Commonwealth University. This partnership offers three nested graduate program options available to students from around the globe via distance learning technologies. Students are introduced to the latest information on topics ranging from the biological basis of addiction to addiction treatment, prevention and policy through lectures produced exclusively for IPAS by an international Who's Who of experts in the field. For more information on IPAS, visit <https://ipas.vcu.edu/>

## VI. Measuring Student Behavior

- In March 2020, RecWell administered the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA III) to a group of 5,000 randomly selected VCU students. Many of the items pertain to alcohol and other drug use by students. Data from this survey not only shape intervention plans, but are also used to create social norms and prevention programs. This data enables RecWell to compare VCU to national reference groups and look for changes in trends and anticipate potential unique issues among the VCU student population. Nationally, alcohol consumption among VCU students has remained lower than national rates.
- In March 2021, RecWell worked with the Division of Student Affairs to administer the Healthy Minds Survey as part of the final requirements for participation in the JED Campus initiative. Data from the survey helped to further explore issues related to mental health and alcohol and other drug use among VCU students.
- During the biennium, staff from RecWell contributed effort to an National Institutes of Health R34 grant project exploring using genetically influenced externalizing and internalizing risk pathways as themes for universal prevention programs for incoming college students (Dick et al., 2021). Research findings from the subsequent clinical trial are still being analyzed and reported.
- In Spring 2022, the Division of Student Affairs administered the National College Student Bystander Intervention Survey to 5,000 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate and professional students who were randomly selected to participate. A total of 503 undergraduate students and 214 graduate and professional students responded. This survey offers a needs assessment of students' bystander experiences, attitudes, motivations, skills, and behaviors. The student is aimed to prevent and reduce harm and lives lost to sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, unhealthy alcohol use, the misuse of non-prescription and prescription drugs, hate, bias, exclusion and hazing. The data will assist us in identifying unique barriers and motivators as we think about bystander intervention, prevention priorities, awareness campaigns, and education programs.

## VII. Campus Police and Enforcement

### Policy Distribution

The VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy was distributed as required once each academic year. For this biennium, the dates of distribution were 11/09/20, 11/16/20, 08/26/21, and 09/06/21.

The primary distribution method for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 was email. The email was distributed as part of the daily university newsletter, the TelegRam. The notice instructs all students, faculty and staff that it is their responsibility to read the policy and to be familiar with its contents. It contains a link to the AOD policy. The policy is available at [www.assurance.vcu.edu/policylibrary.html](http://www.assurance.vcu.edu/policylibrary.html) .

Additional methods are employed to reach VCU's newest members. Each new faculty and/or staff employee received a copy during orientation through Human Resources. Copies were provided online to other new employees (i.e. hourly, adjunct faculty, graduate assistants). VCU expects administrators to distribute the policy within their departments. The email from the provost specifically instructs managers to print the policy for employees with limited or no access to email.

## Policy Revision

The VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy (Appendix A) was most recently updated in March of 2018 and reviewed again March of 2021. The policy, especially those concerning VCU and local resources and laws, are updated annually for accuracy prior to distribution. According to the Integrity and Compliance Office policy, the VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy is required to be updated every three years. [Alcohol and Other Drugs - Virginia Commonwealth University](#)

## Policy Enforcement/Disciplinary Actions

### a. Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

The Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity administers the University's Student Code of Conduct, taking disciplinary action with respect to violations of VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy. Incidents that occur within University residence halls are adjudicated by Residential Life and Housing Staff See Appendix E for a summary of disciplinary actions for students during the biennium.

### b. VCU Human Resources and the VCU Health System Human Resources

VCU Human Resources and the VCU Health System Human Resources are responsible for disciplinary action of VCU employees and VCU Health System employees respectively. In 2020-2021, VCU had a total of 23,382 full-time and part-time employees, and in 2021-2022, VCU had a total of 24,208 full-time and part-time employees (as reported in the "VCU Fact Card," prepared by the VCU Institutional Research and Decision Support).

### c. VCU Police Department

The VCU Police department (VCUPD) and their partners provided the following special projects and initiatives to combat the illegal use of alcohol and drugs on VCU's campuses and surrounding neighborhoods. The police department was subject to the university's COVID-19 safety protocols, which prohibited or limited events beginning March 2020.

Checkpoint Strike Force: In an effort to slow the spread of the Corona Virus and minimize community contact, no checkpoints occurred in Academic years, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

Walk Like MADD: Annually, VCUPD participates in the Richmond MADD Walkathon to raise mission critical funds for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to fight the 100% preventable crimes of drunk and drugged driving. *Walk Like MADD* provides an outlet for those impacted by drunk and drugged driving to channel their grief into hope and healing and provides communities the chance to surround and support those hurting by taking action to prevent others from suffering. The department's annual participation in the Walk Like MADD walkathon collectively raised \$895.00.

- 2021- the Walk Like MADD event was canceled.
- On September 10, 2022, participants raised \$ 895.00.

### Alcohol Awareness programs:

- Throughout the 2020 - 2021 Academic Year, VCU Police provided alcohol and drug related safety tips to 376 people. In the 2021-2022 Academic Year, 5,439 people received alcohol and drug related safety tips. VCU's zero tolerance policy for underage drinking was discussed \ during orientations, presentations, and events focused on alcohol and drug safety.
- During June, July and August of Academic Year 2020 - 2021, student presentations converted to an online module in which alcohol and drug safety information were included. VCUPD Crime Prevention participated in five (5) virtual Open House events. During which, 1,598 people viewed the VCUPD safety video containing alcohol and drug safety information. VCUPD participated in one (1) New Student Orientation- Parent Panel Session. Forty parents attended and received alcohol and drug safety information.
- In Academic Year 2021 -2022 the University held 23 Parent and Transfer Student Orientations. There were 4,315 attendees. Alcohol and drug safety information was provided in the event modules.
- Throughout the 2020-21 Academic Year, 28,848 people received alcohol and drug safety tips via the LiveSafe App and VCU Police social media channels.
- Throughout the 2021-22 Academic Year, 32,251 people received alcohol and drug safety tips via the LiveSafe App and VCU Police social media channels
- Social media was also used to promote 3 alcohol and drug safety events hosted by VCUPD in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Academic Years; 2020, 2021 and 2022 had Drug Take-Back to Prevent Pill Abuse events. 7,028 people received event notifications on social media.

### Party House Complaints:

- 2020/2021 = 90 Complaints and 39 house Visits; 5 evictions (5 non - VCU); 14 had multiple complaints. No landlord letters were sent. One house had 13 complaints in one weekend.
- 2021/2022 = 128 Complaints and 48 House Visits; 0 Evictions; 26 had multiple complaints. No Landlord letters were sent. One row of houses had 25 total complaints.

Fraternity and Sorority Safety Presentation: These presentations concentrated on drug and alcohol use. They highlighted the legal ramifications of arrest and jail time, the economic impact in fines and fees, and the academic impact.

- Academic Year 2020/2021: 2 Presentations with 36 Attendees.
- Academic Year 2021/2022: 0 Presentations were presented. New leadership and restructuring of fraternity and sorority life was underway.



### Total VCUPD Alcohol and Drug Arrests

Type of Arrest	Fiscal Year 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021	Fiscal Year 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021
Drug Arrest Total	31	21
<i>Drug 'Warning/Prosecution Declined/Exceptional Clearance'</i>	9	7
Alcohol Arrest Total	7	12
<i>Alcohol 'Warning/Prosecution Declined/Exceptional Clearance'</i>	4	14

NOTE: Drug Arrest includes drug/narcotic violations and drug equipment violations. Alcohol Arrest includes City Code violations for open container and drinking in public and liquor law violations.

## VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

In this biennium the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Committee (AODAC) has determined that VCU has been consistent in its approach to prevention education and enforcement. The AODAC finds the VCU Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy has been applied fairly and consistently to all members of the university.

### Progress on the Recommendations from the Last Biennial Review:

- Review the VCU AOD policy and revise as needed.
  - The AOD policy was reviewed and modifications were made and approved through the university policy process.
- Consider developing and including in the next revisions of the VCU AOD policy a comprehensive and non-punitive medical amnesty policy that encourages emergency help-seeking behaviors for individuals using AOD.
  - Medical amnesty was successfully added to the policy and communicated to the student body.

- Assist with the establishment of a strategic plan to create an integrative approach to student well-being. AOD misuse education, prevention, and intervention should be a part of this plan.
  - A Division of Student Affairs Well-Being strategic plan was created as was a new RecWell strategic plan.
- Consider establishing a standing group of programmers to meet regularly to plan collaborative, university-wide events/initiatives related to AOD prevention and/or AOD-free programming.
  - Staff from RecWell, University Counseling, University Student Health Services and Rams in Recovery met to better coordinate and collaborate around AOD programming.
- VCU Health Promotion and Well-being Center should consider conducting an environmental scan during this biennium to assess common environmental factors contributing to higher risk AOD consumption in the surrounding community, which may affect VCU students, faculty, and staff and VCU Health team members.
  - The pandemic with its impact on businesses and socialization precluded accomplishment of this objective.
- Partner with stakeholders working with high-risk groups (e.g., Fraternity and Sorority Life, Athletics, Sports Clubs, etc.) to incorporate Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) or a similar program as mandatory education for their organizations on a yearly basis.
  - AlcoholEdu was required for all incoming first year and transfer VCU students Fall 2021. Athletics participated in online bystander intervention training that included an AOD focus.
- Examine and adopt new or best practices to educate students on mediating the academic impacts associated with regular cannabis use by Spring 2022.
  - A number of initiatives focused on education related to cannabis use including an on-line learning module, training for Peer Health Educators to enhance outreach efforts, information provided in the Stall Seat Journal, and training for Health Promotions staff.
- Require at least one follow-up meeting for all students who are sanctioned to complete BASICS/CASICS as a result of a VCU Code of Conduct violation to ensure program fidelity and alignment with best practices for administering such interventions.
  - This was accomplished.
- During the next biennial review process, disaggregate the data to identify any sanctioning or disciplinary patterns by race/ethnicity, gender, and other identity characteristics, which may indicate AOD policies are not being applied equitably.
  - This was not achieved this biennium and will be carried forward to the next biennium.
- Explore mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and idea-sharing between faculty members involved in AOD-related research and student affairs' practitioners involved in AOD intervention work on campus. This process may include conducting more regular meetings of the AOD Advisory Committee, utilizing faculty expertise to evaluate current practices, and implementing evidence-based practices.
  - This was not accomplished this biennium and will be continued in the next biennium.

- For the next biennial review process, consider mixing the data in the report, so it focuses upon primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention efforts throughout the document, not simply what each office and/or department is doing independently. Moreover, the report should discuss what evidence exists of the relative impact of these prevention efforts.
  - This recommendation is under further review.
- For the next biennial review process, review and update University policy surrounding cannabis use following state legalization on July 1, 2022 and the proposed removal of cannabis from the federal Schedule I list of substances.
  - Federal law did not change and university policies remained the same.

### **Recommendations for the 2022-2024 Biennium**

- Disaggregate conduct data to identify any sanctioning or disciplinary patterns by race/ethnicity, gender, and other identity characteristics, which may indicate AOD policies are not being applied equitably.
- Provide more detailed information regarding the medical amnesty policy and its application.
- Conduct more regular AOD Advisory Committee meetings to focus on survey and trend data, evaluate current practices, and implement evidence-based practices.
- Administer the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment (NCHA) spring semester 2022 and review the results with the committee
- Increase the number of students completing the AlcoholEdu module.
- Increase awareness of fentanyl overdose symptoms, effects, and treatment along with other emerging synthetic opioids.

## **IX. References**

Dick, Saunders, T., Balcke, E., Driver, M. N., Neale, Z., Vassileva, J., & Langberg, J. M. (2021).

Genetically influenced externalizing and internalizing risk pathways as novel prevention targets. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 36(6), 595–606. <https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000759>

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) (2019). Planning alcohol

interventions using NIAAA’s College AIM Alcohol Interventions Matrix (NIH Publication No. 19-AA-8017). National Institutes of Health. Retrieved from [https://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/CollegeAIM/Resources/NIAAA\\_College\\_Matrix\\_Booklet.pdf](https://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/CollegeAIM/Resources/NIAAA_College_Matrix_Booklet.pdf)

## **X. Appendices**

### **A. Student Code of Conduct - interim**

Responsible Office: Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, Office of the Provost

- a. Initial Policy Approved: 05/10/2013
- b. Current Revision Approved: 4/10/2022
- c. The full policy can be found at this link:  
<https://vcu.public.doctract.com/doctract/documentportal/08DA32A740D329EA999AE55858CBBECA>

### **B. VCU Alcohol and Drug Policy**

Responsible Office: Division of Student Affairs, Office of the Provost

- a. Initial Policy Approved: 09/1991
- b. Current Revision Approved: 12/10/2021
- c. The full policy can be found at this link:  
<https://policy.vcu.edu/universitywide-policies/policies/alcohol-and-other-drugs.html>

### **C. [2020 VCU National College Health Assessment Executive Summary](#)**

### **D. [2021-2022 VCU AlcoholEdu Impact Report](#)**

## E. Tables of Student Conduct Alcohol/Drug Charges and Sanctions Issued

Alcohol/Drug Charges Issued by Residential Life and Housing or Student Conduct and Academic Integrity  
collected by date of incident July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Charge	Not Responsible	Responsible	Total
<i>Distribution of Drugs</i>	0	1	1
<i>Drug/Alcohol Related Medical Transport</i>	0	7	7
<i>Drunk in Public</i>	0	0	0
<i>Driving Under the Influence</i>	1	7	8
<i>Fake ID</i>	0	0	0
<i>Involvement in a University Violation</i>	166	106	272
<i>Marijuana Possession/Use</i>	29	14	43
<i>Possession of a Controlled Substance</i>	1	2	3
<i>Providing Alcohol to Minors</i>	7	0	7
<i>Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol</i>	131	76	207

**NOTE:** This data was gathered from the VCU MAXIENT case management database system

Sanctions Assigned by Residential Life & Housing or Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Data collected by date of incident July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

	Total Referred	Total Completed
<i>Deferred Housing Contract Cancellation*</i>	136	136
<i>Alcohol Education Course</i>	103	71**
<i>Educational Experience: RAMS LEAD*</i>	93	67**
<i>Educational Experience: Reflective Paper*</i>	74	20**
<i>Reflective Paper Series*</i>		
<i>Loss of Privileges: Housing Contract Cancellation*</i>	3	3
<i>Parental Notifications</i>	108	108
<i>Disciplinary Probation*</i>	159	159
<i>Deferred Suspension*</i>	15	15
<i>Suspension*</i>	0	0
<i>Expulsion*</i>	0	0

\*Data may include students disciplined for reasons other than substance use.

\*\*Some students may not have completed the assigned sanctions. If so, a disciplinary hold is placed on the student's account and the Office of the University Registrar is notified to implement the hold.

**NOTE:** This data was gathered from the VCU MAXIENT case management database system

Alcohol/Drug Charges Issued by Residential Life and Housing or Student Conduct and Academic Integrity  
collected by date of incident July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

<b>Charge</b>	<b>Not Responsible</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Distribution of Drugs</i>	0	0	0
<i>Drug/Alcohol Related Medical Transport</i>	0	3	3
<i>Drunk in Public</i>	0	2	2
<i>Driving Under the Influence</i>	0	0	0
<i>Fake ID</i>	1	2	3
<i>Involvement in a University Violation</i>	17	8	25
<i>Marijuana Possession/Use</i>	28	36	64
<i>Possession of a Controlled Substance</i>	4	2	6
<i>Providing Alcohol to Minors</i>	1	2	3
<i>Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol</i>	43	94	137

**NOTE:** This data was gathered from the VCU MAXIENT case management database system

Sanctions Assigned by Residential Life & Housing or Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Data collected by date of incident July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

	Total Referred	Total Completed
<i>Deferred Housing Contract Cancellation*</i>	23	23
<i>Alcohol Education Course*</i>	108	80**
<i>Educational Experience: RAMS LEAD*</i>	36	27**
<i>Educational Experience: Reflective Paper*</i>	93	60
<i>Reflective Paper Series*</i>		
<i>Loss of Privileges: Housing Contract Cancellation*</i>	0	0
<i>Parental Notifications</i>	126	226
<i>Disciplinary Probation*</i>	145	145
<i>Deferred Suspension*</i>	4	4
<i>Suspension*</i>	1	1
<i>Expulsion*</i>	0	0

\*Data may include students disciplined for reasons other than substance use.

\*\*Some students may not have completed the assigned sanctions. If so, a disciplinary hold is placed on the student's account and the Office of the University Registrar is notified to implement the hold.

**NOTE:** This data was gathered from the VCU MAXIENT case management database system