



# DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ACT

Biennial Review Report  
Academic Years: 2023-2024 & 2024-2025

Signature Certification:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David J. Smith', is written over a horizontal line.

President, Northampton Community College

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## **I. Introduction and Overview**

The Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) require an institution of higher education (IHE) to certify it has adopted and implemented programs to prevent the abuse of alcohol and use or distribution of illicit drugs by students and employees both on its premises and as a part of any of its activities. Northampton Community College (NCC) has conducted a Drug and Alcohol Biennial Review to demonstrate the College's compliance with the requirements of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. The review is required to contain the following objectives:

1. Determine the effectiveness of and to implement any changes to the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program
2. Ensure that campuses enforce the disciplinary sanctions for violating standards of conduct consistently

## **II. Biennial Review Committee**

The Biennial Review Committee is represented by a variety of areas. Current members include:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>OFFICE</b>
Keith Morris	Clery Compliance Officer/Exec. Dir. Of Government Relations & Public Safety
Alyson Patascher	Title IX Coordinator/Clery Compliance
Nathan Ramos	Chief of Public Safety
Elizabeth Bugaighis	Vice Provost of Academic Affairs
Eric Rosenthal	Associate Vice Provost & Dean of Students
Janelle Howey	Assoc. Dean of Students/Student Conduct
Nykolai Blichar	Director of Student Life & Leadership Development
Beatriz Messina	Counseling
Josh Reda	Director of Housing & Residence Life
Bill Smith	Executive Director of Facilities Management
Kevin Gaughenbaugh	Asst. Registrar, Academic Scheduling & Registration
Troy Tucker	Athletic Director
Amber Gore	Study Abroad/International Services
Crystal Smith	Administrative Assistant (Public Safety)

## **III. Biennial Review Process**

The following information related to the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Academic Year Period of Review was examined for the Biennial Review:

- Prevention initiatives
- Resources available to students and faculty

- Student handbook policies related to Alcohol and Other Drugs use and sanctions imposed for failure to comply
- Employee policies related to Alcohol and Other Drugs use and sanctions imposed for failure to comply
- Review of the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations Compliance checklist

#### **IV. Descriptions of Alcohol and Other Drugs Program Elements**

Northampton Community College provides many learning opportunities both in the classroom and out of the classroom pertaining to drug and alcohol education. This includes overall programming, prevention programs, support programs, and academic information. The following is a list of NCC's programming pertaining to Student Affairs (comprised of Counseling Services, Residence Life, Athletics, Student Conduct, the Collegiate Recovery Program and Campus Wide Education), Academic Affairs and Faculty and Staff programming.

##### **Student Affairs Division Drug and Alcohol Programming and Education**

###### **Counseling Services:**

- Presentations were completed to social work, health, and biology classes about latest trends in drugs of abuse.
- NCC was involved in the planning committee for the Live Well Be Well Substance Use and Mental Health Prevention Awareness community empowerment event
- NCC celebrated Collegiate Recovery week in April by hosting tabling events to promote the Collegiate Recovery Program (CRP) and showing the film "The Wisdom of Trauma."

###### **Residence Life:**

- Presentations are held during New Resident Orientation, including information on potential student conduct and legal consequences of drugs or alcohol use as well as possible health, legal, and academic consequences.
- Presentations are given to Residence Life staff on latest trends and drugs of abuse.

###### **Athletics:**

- Workshops on mental health, nutrition and supplements are held.
- Topics connected to drug and alcohol education are based on conversations and any issues that came up prior to the sessions.

#### Student Conduct:

- If there is a violation of the drug or alcohol policy, after meeting with the student, the following sanctions could be implemented: reflection paper, educational module, from Judicial Educator. Students could also be put on probation or more depending on the severity of and number of offense(s). If there is a second offense or more, a meeting with NCC Counselor for an alcohol or drug assessment or participating in educational sessions will be required.

#### Collegiate Recovery Program (CRP):

- The CRP Provides weekly support meetings to students in recovery from drugs and alcohol abuse.
- Students will engage in community service as part of this program.
- Students will participate in sober activities on and off campus as part of the CRP.
- NCC has a dedicated space for CRP members to congregate, socialize and connect with other students.
- Priority registration is provided for CRP members.  
There are opportunities to attend the annual recovery conference at St. Joe's University in Philadelphia
- Students will be supplied graduation cords displaying recovery colors.
- NCC has an institutional membership with the Association for Recovery in Higher Education (ARHE), the governing body for CRPs.
- Students have the opportunity to collaborate with community agencies as part of the CRP.

#### Campus Wide Education:

- The Hazing and Hosting module for students, faculty and staff is assigned to each group for completion as part of the Stop Campus Hazing Act compliance training. This module includes education on hosting and providing alcohol in relation to hazing.
- Student Conduct presentations are done on reporting policy violations. These are offered at varied times throughout the year and for specific departments or held through the Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Tobacco cessation information and education are offered through the Health and Wellness Center.
- Center for Humanistic Change (CHC) offers presentations on the Opioid Epidemic.

- Easton Opiate Coalition showed the film “This is my Son, this is my Daughter,” a documentary featuring young people from the Lehigh Valley area battling addiction.
- Northampton County Drug and Alcohol Division participated in a tabling event at NCC during Collegiate Recovery week and a variety of community fairs. They distributed free Narcan nasal spray at these events.
- Northampton County Drug and Alcohol Division provided three Narcan dispenser boxes on two of our campuses and will provide maintenance to these boxes by filling them with free Narcan nasal spray.
- Students are made aware that there is medical tuition credit available for students having to leave mid-semester to obtain substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.
- NCC offers referrals to treatment available through NCC’s Counseling Services.
- Anonymous Alcohol and Other Drugs assessments are available to students through the Counseling webpage.
- Alcohol and Other Drugs educational information is provided on the Counseling Services webpage, highlighting the latest drug trends and ways to stay safe.
- 12-Step meeting information as well as brochures for local recovery centers are available in a display outside the counseling suite.
- The Carbon, Monroe, Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission held Save a Life Day, a tabling event on the Pocono Campus, to promote treatment and recovery from substance abuse disorders (SUDs), including distribution of information and Narcan nasal spray.
- The Office of Corporate and Public Safety conducted a Street Drug and Intoxicant Familiarization course.

### **Academic Affairs Drug and Alcohol Programming and Education**

- The Nursing Department, in conjunction with the Nursing Student Organization (NSO) hosts a Drug and Alcohol simulation facilitated by the Carbon, Monroe, Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission.
- Contemporary Health, HEAL150, is offered to students and has a section on drug and alcohol prevention as well as recognizing and avoiding addiction and drug abuse.
- Ending tobacco use is covered in the biological psychology and consciousness chapter in PSYC103. It is also covered in the health-compromising behaviors chapter in Introduction to Health Psychology, PSYC230. SUDs are covered in both of those classes as well.

## **Staff and Faculty Alcohol Programming and Education**

- A Mock Teen Bedroom was held in collaboration with the Center for Humanistic Change (CHC).
- Opioid Jeopardy was held in collaboration with the Center for Humanistic Change.
- The Opioid Epidemic and Harm Reduction was presented by the Center for Humanistic Change (CHC).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium Hazing and Hosting, a college wide educational module, which addresses dangers of hosting alcohol concerns, is offered to staff and faculty.

### **V. Statement of Alcohol and Other Drugs Goals and Discussion of Goal Achievement**

Northampton Community College's efforts to prevent or decrease Alcohol and Other Drugs use and abuse is most successful when all entities of the college community (students, staff, faculty, parents, Public Safety, and community members and agencies) work together to achieve our Alcohol and Other Drugs goals. The goals are as follows:

- Goal: To educate the student body about the dangers of abusing alcohol and illicit substances.
  - Goal Achievement: Residence life provides alcohol and other drugs programming during orientation and during the year. Next year, each Resident Advisor will be responsible for Alcohol and Other Drugs programs to increase this programming. Student Conduct uses educational modules and reflection assignments as part of the sanctioning process to reduce re-offending. Some academic program courses have Alcohol and Other Drugs topics built into the curriculum.
- Goal: Northampton Community College strives to maintain campuses void of illegal substances.
  - Goal Achievement: Northampton Community College has student, faculty, and staff policies in place on alcohol and drug use and abuse. There are procedures in place to address these concerns and policy violations. These processes include supportive measures and disciplinary processes. Some Programs of Study have Alcohol and Other Drugs related curriculum embedded in courses.
- Goal: To create and maintain a healthy educational environment where students can achieve academic, personal, social, and emotional success and well-being.
  - Goal Achievement: Northampton Community College provides programming to educate students on the dangers associated with drug and alcohol use including the effects it could have on health, mental health, academics, and social life. In student housing, staff and Public Safety

monitor the building contributing to a healthier environment for student success, including addressing alcohol and other drug violations.

- Goal: To create a safe environment where students can obtain accurate information about substance use disorders and be referred for treatment if necessary
  - Goal Achievement: Northampton Community College has 24-hour Public Safety to address concerning or dangerous incidents of alcohol and other drug violations. The Student Conduct process has a robust educational process to it. Students may be referred to Counseling Services on-campus, where an assessment can be done and referrals can be made if necessary
- Goal: To create and deliver drug and alcohol-free programming for the college community.
  - Goal Achievement: Programming is provided by multiple offices on campus, including but not limited to Student Life and Leadership Development, Residence Life, Counseling, Athletics, part of curriculum in some classes, and by outside agencies brought onto campus. Student Affairs sends out an annual notification of the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct notifying all students of student policies.
- Goal: Create a living environment where residential students can live free/ with minimal of Alcohol and Other Drugs distractions.
  - Goal Achievement: Public Safety and Residence Life staff monitor the building for noise, policy violations, including Alcohol and Other Drugs violations, and disturbances. These issues are then addressed through the Student Conduct process. Students are informed of policy, expectations, and possible consequences during Resident Orientation and hall meetings. Student Affairs sends out an annual notification of the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct notifying all students of student policies.

## **VI. Summaries of Alcohol and Other Drugs Program Strengths and Weaknesses**

### **Program Strengths:**

- NCC leadership is supportive of programming and resources for CRP students as evidenced by provision of a dedicated space on campus as well as an annual budgeted amount for the program and paying ARHE institutional membership fees.
- NCC Policies help enforce Alcohol and Other Drugs violations
- Education, reflection, and goal setting are often used as part of the sanctioning process.



- Engagement software, Suitable, has been purchased and will be implemented to assist in tracking student attendance at programs. It will also be a useful tool to reach out to students, therefore increasing participation and engagement.
- The inclusion of the medical tuition credit policy which is available for students having to leave mid-semester to obtain substance use disorder treatment (SUD) is incredibly beneficial to students who need to focus on their recovery and will lessen a financial burden.
- NCC has strong ties with the recovery community as evidenced by organizations' participation in many NCC events.
- NCC has made connections with local treatment centers and uses them as referrals if necessary.

#### Program Weaknesses:

- Student engagement and attendance at programs is a challenge.
  - Solution: Increase attendance at Alcohol and Other Drugs related programs. Suitable, a tracking software program, will be purchased and will help market and track program participation.
  - Solution: Having faculty be aware of drug and alcohol programming so they can let their students know ahead of time, especially when the class topics align with drug and alcohol information.
- New strategies are needed to reach different populations (adult, online, residents, international, and other students)
  - Solution: Increase attendance of special populations at Alcohol and Other Drugs related programs.
  - Solution: The Retention Taskforce has initiatives for the engagement and retention of special populations, such as adults, online, residential, and more. Student Life and Leadership Development is developing programming focused on these populations, which will include Alcohol and Other Drugs programming.
- Although counseling services are available on campus, for drug and alcohol treatment specifically, students need to be connected to community services off campus.
  - Solution: Informing new students of the existence of the CRP to support recovery efforts. Additionally, keep the connections to off campus providers to serve as a referral for students.
- There is a need to establish relationships with treatment center and SUD programs in Monroe County the same way NCC's Bethlehem campus has with Northampton County.

- Solution: Reach out to the Carbon, Monroe, Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission to establish a relationship and make connections to Monroe County treatment centers.
- Solution: Reach out to the Center for Humanistic Change and request them to do programming at the Pocono campus.

## **VII. Procedures for Distributing Annual Alcohol and Other Drugs Notification to Students and Employees**

The Department of Education requires that each institution of higher education distribute its annual Alcohol and Other Drugs policy notification in writing. The materials are distributed to all students, faculty, and staff via e-mail twice per academic year (Fall and Spring semesters) under the direction of the Associate Vice Provost & Dean of Students and contains:

- Standards of conduct (Code of Conduct)
- Possible legal sanctions and penalties
- Statements of the health risks associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs use.
- College Alcohol and Other Drugs programs available to students, staff, and faculty/

## **VIII. Copies of Policies Distributed to Students and Employees**

Students are notified twice yearly in August/September and January/February of student policies. Residence Life sends the Residence Life Handbook to all residents. The Associate Dean of Students and Associate Vice Provost, Dean of Students, or designee send out the annual notification of the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct with student policies and resources. The staff and faculty policies are on NCC's SharePoint, and all employees have access to review these policies.

### **Student Policies:**

- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Residence Life Handbook](#)
- [Smoking, Vaping and Tobacco Policy](#)
- [Student Alcohol and Drug Policy](#)

### **Staff/Faculty Policies:**

- [Staff and Faculty Policies](#)

## **IX. Recommendations for Revising Alcohol and Drug Programs**

- Creating and disseminating an annual survey to students asking what kind of SUD educational information they are interested in receiving.
- Provide mandatory session for residence hall students about binge drinking, date rape drugs and how to stay safe.
- Provide mandatory educational session for residence hall students on Fentanyl poisoning utilizing the “One Pill can Kill campaign” and Xylazine.
- Provide mandated residence hall programing about alcohol and drugs to be put on by each student staff once a semester.
- Offer drug trends training for faculty and staff during “Opening Days” and throughout the semester through the CTLT that includes guidelines on how to best help a student who may be struggling with substance use disorder.
- Suitable Engagement Software is being implemented, and it will help with program communications and tracking student participation.
- The new Hazing and Hosting module (3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium) is being implemented and will have training on hosting and providing alcohol.
- Provide more programming opportunities for faculty and staff to attend.
- Include Alcohol and Other Drugs specific information on counseling page of website.