

Willamette University
Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA)
Biennial Review: 2022-2023 AY and 2023-2024 AY
Completed September, 2024

Introduction to the Biennial Review

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) and Part 86 of the Department of Education's General Administrative Regulations (Edgar Part 86) requires institutions of higher education (IHEs) to adopt and implement drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs for students and employees. Willamette University is committed to building a healthy campus community that promotes the well-being and success of all community members through education, prevention programs, and referral resources. This biennial review examines the effectiveness and impacts of drug and alcohol prevention programs and sanctions in the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 academic years, and assists in making recommendations or improvements for future programs.

Willamette's Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs and Interventions

There are a number of programs and services offered across all of Willamette's campuses that address alcohol and drug use, mis-use, and abuse as outlined below:

Online AlcoholEdu Modules: EVERFI in 2022-2023 and Vector Solutions in 2023-2024

AlcoholEdu is designed to equip students with knowledge and skills to support healthier decisions related to alcohol. These interactive online programs use the latest evidence-based prevention methods to create a highly engaging user experience, inspiring students to make healthier decisions related to alcohol and other drugs.

All incoming first year students are required to complete the module before arrival on campus. Response data is outlined later in this document. Additionally, students found responsible for Code of Conduct violations related to alcohol or drug use may be required to complete additional online modules as an educational sanction.

New Undergraduate Student Orientation and Student Leader Training

Before new students arrive on campus at the start of an academic year, Willamette University trains student leaders to serve as Resident Assistants, Colloquium Associates, and Opening Days (orientation) Leaders. Resident Assistants are trained in university policy enforcement, including those policies regulating alcohol and other drugs. This group of student leaders is also trained in crisis intervention for situations that involve alcohol and other drugs. Each Resident Assistant is assigned a group of residential students to support; these students are required to attend regular meetings about expectations in their community.

In both academic years during this review period, all first year incoming students in Salem participated in a student-led program called “Starting the Conversation”. This program has content dedicated to alcohol and drug use, which included available resources on campus and a mention of our medical amnesty policy. After this program, the new students participated in a facilitated debriefing conversation in their small Opening Days Group.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, all incoming first year students in both Salem and Portland participated in a 90 minute program called “Speak About It”; a contracted vendor presentation primarily addressing consent and sexual assault, though it also covered the intersection with alcohol and drug use.

During the Fall 2023 new student orientation, supporting friends and family were invited to attend an educational session “Understanding Student Safety, Community Standards and Violence Prevention.” The session gave an overview of the Department of Campus Safety, Student Conduct, and the violence prevention efforts on campus. This session also gave general information about alcohol and other drug policies at the university.

All new students who attend fall orientation participate in a workshop led by trained student leaders to answer questions about university expectations and policy. Students are directed to expectations outlined in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Law School Orientation

We know that the alcohol and drug use, misuse, and abuse is contextually different for our law students. Included in the first year (1L) student orientation is a review of available AOD resources, including the active promotion of the [Oregon Attorney Assistance Program](#) (OAAP). Additionally, the OAAP and other on campus referral resources are included in many course syllabi.

Individual Screening, Brief Therapy, and Referrals

Willamette University’s Student Health and Counseling Center provides initial screening by both counseling and primary care professionals. Counseling professionals also provide brief therapy and motivational interviewing for students presenting with mild AOD concerns. The clinical staff of Willamette University’s Health and Counseling Center, as well as the Health Educator at PNCA are available to assist students in need of referral to outside treatment services.

In the spring of 2024, Bishop Wellness Center designed and implemented a screening tool called the Bishop Lifestyle Assessment Form (BLAF). All new to the office students complete this assessment at their first appointment. The BLAF identifies areas of concern related to wellness, and informs referral and follow-up care. The goals for this screening include: screening for depression, substance abuse, and suicide; and provide meaningful information that impacts the student’s wellness and allows the clinician(s) to provide holistic care that promotes well-being.

Several questions on the BLAF are adapted from the SBIRT, AUDIT, and DAST. These are widely used, validated screenings for substance abuse. If the student indicates that they or someone close to them has a high level of concern about their substance abuse, a brief intervention is offered. Since these are screening questions only, additional tools may be used to assess, to a greater degree, risk of substance

abuse. Such screenings include the more comprehensive AUDIT and DAST inventories. If substance abuse disorder is suspected, intervention is offered.

PNCA Health Coach and Educator

In the spring of 2023, Willamette secured a donor funded position on the PNCA campus – a Health Coach and Educator. The Health Coach and Educator provides 1-1 health coaching, facilitates workshops, and provides resources to enhance PNCA students' wellbeing, including screening, support, and referrals for issues related to alcohol and drug use.

There were a number of tangible outcomes for students during this review period to include:

- Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips made available to students free of charge.
- Three overdose response trainings delivered to students. Each participant got a free Narcan "kit" containing two doses. Free Narcan kits were also made available to students in the main campus building.
- Ongoing case management support of 5 students to address substance use.
- Developed relationships with SAFE Project, Project Red and Alano Club.

Our Health Coach and Educator also develops passive programming and social norming campaigns through their active instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/pnca_health_educator/. There were seventeen social media posts mentioning substances or harm reduction.

Residence Life Interventions

Residence Life and Housing engages in educational conversations with students who have been found in violation of alcohol or drug policy (outlined in the student code of conduct). Our conduct history indicates that our recidivism rates are low, meaning when someone has one violation of alcohol or drug substance, we often do not have other violations.

EAP for Employees

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a free and confidential benefit that can assist employees, their dependents, and household family members with any personal life problems, large or small. Confidential coaching and counseling over the phone, or online for concerns such as alcohol and drug use are offered.

Medical Amnesty Policy

The University's highest priorities are the physical and mental health, safety, and well-being of all members of the community. Therefore, no student seeking medical attention by contacting either university or local authorities for intoxication (nor a student who seeks medical attention on behalf of the affected student) or who reports misconduct as a complainant or witnesses/third parties, and cooperates with and/or assists any medical, university, or law enforcement officials will be formally charged for the unlawful use or possession of alcohol or other drugs or violation of other related safety protocols.

Although this does not relieve any student or organization from responsibility for other policy violations that may have occurred prior to seeking medical attention, the effort to seek help for the affected student may be a mitigating factor in sanctioning. Affected students may be required to complete an evaluation or other education programs but will not face disciplinary charges or sanctions as prescribed through the student conduct process.

Updated University Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policies

In 2023, Willamette University updated its [Alcohol Policy](#). Key changes made in this iteration include greater clarity about off-campus events that serve alcohol, codified into policy that employees may not purchase alcohol for students, further outlined hosting responsibilities for university events where alcohol is present, etc.). Willamette also has a recently updated [Drug Free Workplace Policy](#). Key changes include updated links to revised policies and clarified language.

Annual Notification to Students and Employees

As part of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) and Part 86 of the Department of Education's General Administrative Regulations (Edgar Part 86) requirements, Willamette University distributes to all students and employees and has available on its Policies and Procedures page [Notice of the DFSCA](#). This notice includes links to other policies and resources to include the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) [benefits page](#).

Marijuana/Cannabis Statement

Effective July 1, 2015, the possession and use of certain amounts of marijuana became legal for adults 21-years of age or older in Oregon. Adults 21 and older can possess up to one ounce of marijuana, keep up to eight ounces at home per household, and grow up to four plants per household with certain restrictions (e.g. prohibited on any school grounds).

However, while the use and/or possession of cannabis is legal in Oregon for those over 21 years of age and regardless of whether or not an individual possesses a prescription for medical use, as an educational institution that receives federal funds, Willamette University must comply with federal law under the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (20 U.S.C. Section 1011i). *Accordingly, any possession or use of cannabis in any form or substances derived from cannabis is strictly prohibited on University property.*

Updated Drug Free Workplace Policy

Willamette's [Drug Free Workplace Policy](#) was recently updated and available on the university's website.

Alcohol and Other Drug Prevalence and Incidence Rates, and Trend Data

The charts below were taken from our first year student on-line educational module reports:

Figure 1: 2022-2023 Drinking Categories for First Year Students (n=300 - note typo in chart below)

Examination of Drinking Rates

Considering the College Effect, here is how your students (n = 30) reported their drinking rates on pre- and post-course surveys (separated by four-to-six weeks).

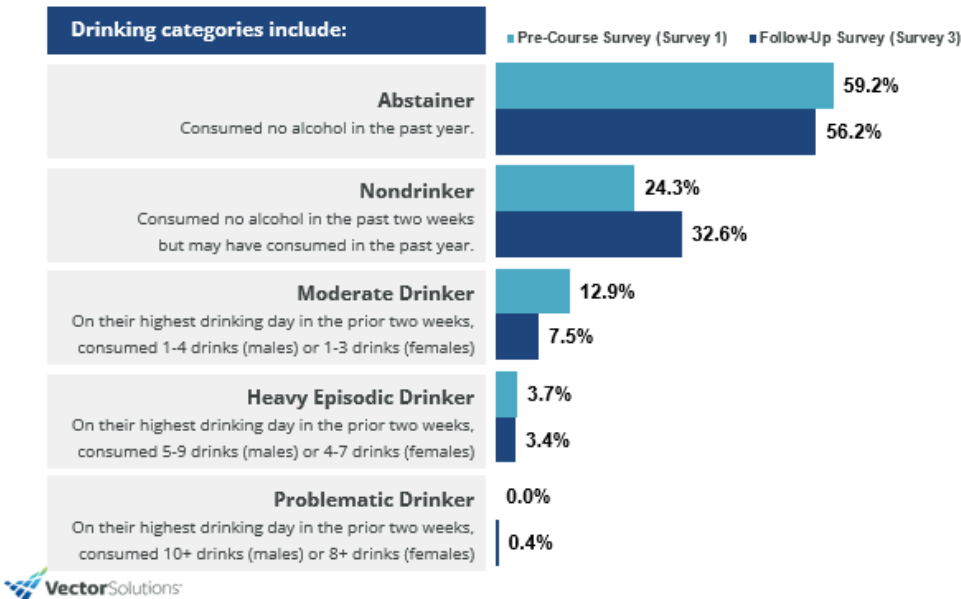


Figure 2: 2023-2024 Drinking Categories for First Year Students

Examination of Drinking Rates

Considering the College Effect, here is how your students (n = 327) reported their drinking rates on pre- and post-course surveys (separated by four-to-six weeks).

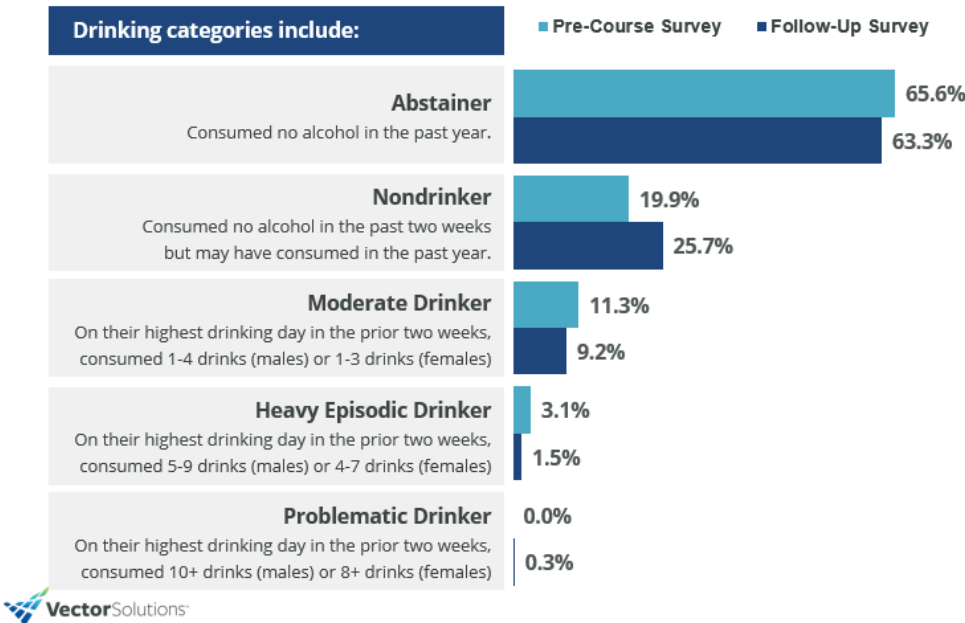


Figure 3: Other Highlights from AlcoholEDU Data for First Year Incoming Students

Data Highlights	2022 -2023	2023-2024
Reported high risk drinking in previous 2 weeks	4%	3%
No drinking in past year	60%	63%
Of those that do drink, “No drinking in past two weeks”	24%	26%
Indicated that the module prepared them to make responsible decisions around alcohol	97%	85%
Most commonly reported risk behavior	Shots and “pre-gaming”	Shots and “pre-gaming”
Most commonly reported negative consequences	Hangover and stomach upset	Hangover and stomach upset
Most commonly reported “reason not to drink”	“I’m going to drive”	“I’m going to drive”

Alcohol and Drug Incident Data

There were 28 substantiated alcohol and/or drug violations of the Student Code of Conduct for the 2022-2023 academic year and 14 substantiated alcohol and/or drug violations 2023-2024 academic year. All were on Willamette’s Salem campus. Of these, nearly all were by residential students living on campus. 24 were alcohol related violations; overwhelmingly an underaged person in possession. Most alcohol infractions were by first and second year students, which aligns with Willamette’s two year live on requirement and on campus student population.

All of the Code of Conduct drug related violations across both academic years in this review period involved cannabis or cannabis paraphernalia. Additionally, there were a few reports of cannabis odors in the residence halls, but the investigation was unable to determine the source.

Figure 4: Code of Conduct Violations by Class Standing

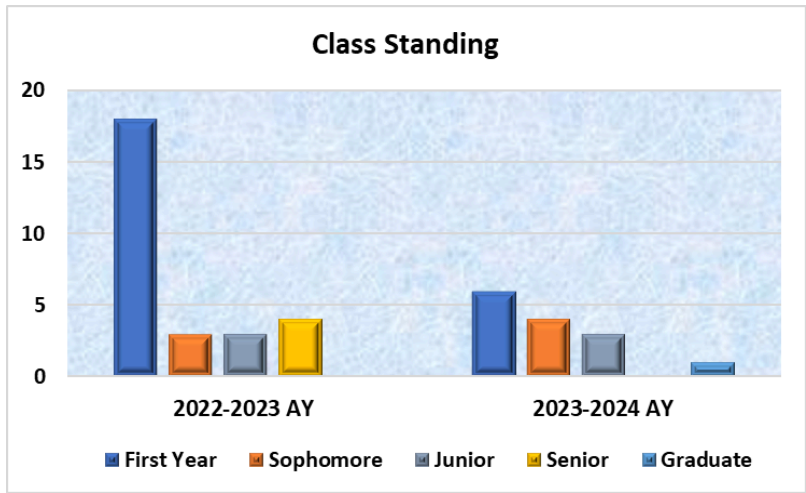


Figure 5: Code of Conduct Violations by Location

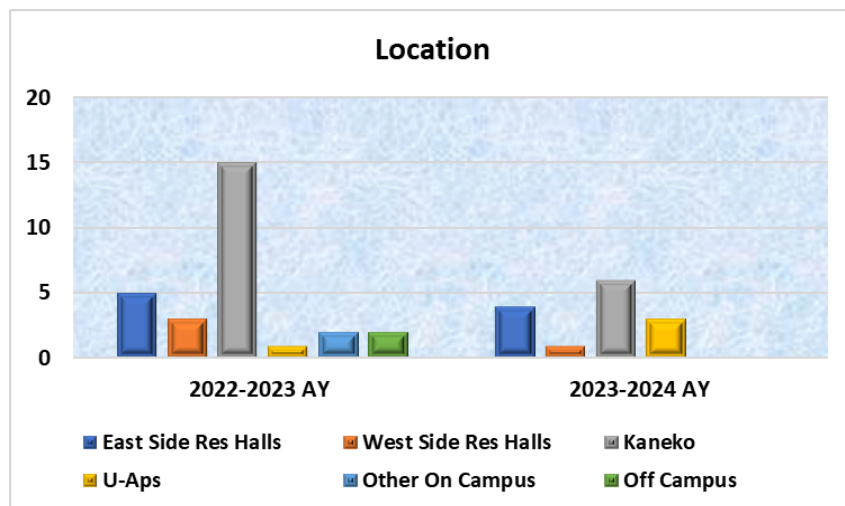
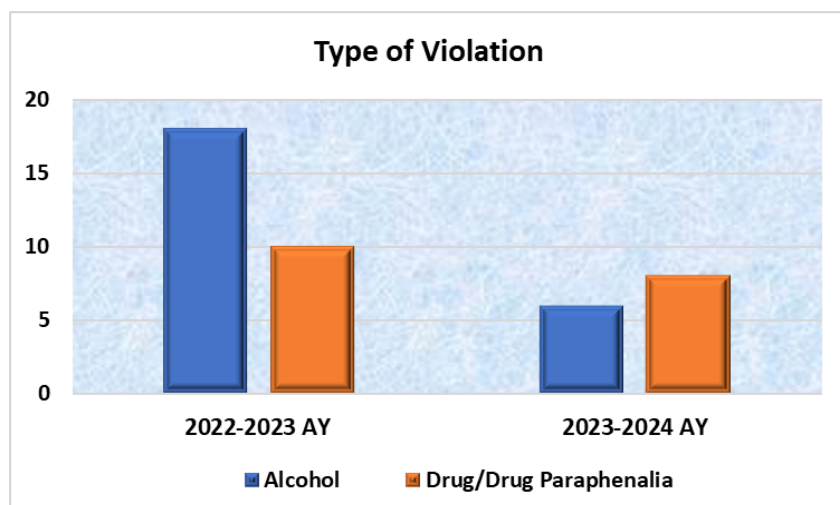


Figure 6: Code of Conduct Violations by Type



Records indicate that two students were transported to the hospital for issues that included at least some intersection with alcohol or drugs in the 2022-2023 AY and six students were transported to the hospital in the 2023-2024 AY for these reasons. Some of these transports were initiated primarily for mental health concerns, but co-occurring AOD issues were either known or presumed. It is also likely that there were more off campus students that independently sought a higher level of care at the hospital during these review periods, but our system is not able to reliably capture that data.

The clinicians of Bishop Wellness Center and the Health Coach at PNCA made less than 5 referrals for higher levels of off campus AOD services specifically in each academic year during this review period. However, there were nearly a dozen referrals for higher levels of care in each year of this review period initiated from the clinicians in Counseling Services for mental health reasons that included known comorbid drug involvement; and more specifically cannabis induced psychosis. This has been a trend in recent years nationally, and in college counseling centers; and more specifically in states where

recreational marijuana is legal. It is also assumed that some students needing higher levels of care did not seek such care through the available on campus resources, though it is difficult to accurately determine these rates.

AOD Program Strengths and Weaknesses

Willamette's current AOD offerings include several areas of strength. Specifically, the on-line AlcoholEDU educational modules appear to be effective. There are very good response rates for first year students, and feedback indicates that these modules informed the thinking and behavior of first year students. Also important is the comparatively low rates of problematic drinking and AOD related conduct violations identified in this review.

The development and implementation of the Bishop Lifestyle Assessment Form (BLAF) has also proven to be a helpful screening tool. While it was just implemented in the spring of 2023, historical utilization data in Bishop suggests that well over 1400 students will be screened every academic year moving forward. The process for identification of at risk students and referrals between health and counseling clinicians in the integrated wellness center is working well. At the same time, there is a comparative lack of on campus AOD resources in an already resource scarce region, complicating referrals for students needing a higher level of care.

While there is programming dedicated during the onboarding process for new incoming (especially first year) students, there is comparatively little programming offered throughout the rest of the academic year. Absence of dedicated programming in the residence halls for first and second year students. There is a notable absence of dedicated programming in the residence halls for first and second year students

Also of note is a lack of a university wide, coordinated AOD programming effort. This is surely attributed to resource challenges. Willamette does not currently have a Health Education department, so education and outreach responsibilities are spread across several departments and individuals.

Recommendations for Revising AOD Program Offerings

Comprehensive AOD Program Development

There is a clear need for a systemic, comprehensive, and evidence based campus wide alcohol and drug prevention program at Willamette. Ideally, this would include resources to fund a dedicated Health Education department with Coordinator or Director oversight. This unit could spearhead outreach, education, and programming efforts across all schools and campuses.

Absent this investment, Willamette University may consider launching an AOD Prevention Taskforce for coordination of campus-wide alcohol and drug prevention and education efforts. The group could include student affairs division staff, campus safety staff, student representatives, and others. It would be tasked with evaluating efforts made thus far and proposing recommendations for future programming based on emerging student trends. This would be aligned with our [JED Campus](#) efforts; especially as we move into the maintenance phase of that initiative.

Increase Available On-Campus Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services

For many complicated and interconnected reasons, Oregon consistently ranks among the worst states in the country for substance abuse problems and access to treatment. Accessing help for addiction is disproportionately difficult here. Further, there are no dedicated alcohol or drug treatment resources per se available on campus. Willamette's part time Alcohol and Drug Counselor position was discontinued in 2008. While the current clinicians in Bishop Wellness Center can provide intervention with some individuals, anyone needing a higher level of care must be referred to a community that is comparatively bereft of resources, leaving these students underserved.

In addition to the support already offered to students through educational campaigns, targeted programming, and access to counseling staff in-person and on-call, Willamette may benefit from developing student support group services related to AOD use disorders. These groups have struggled to function previously due to the low number of students requesting them, but it may merit further investigation.

Collaborative Relationships with Local Resources

Despite the lack of community resources available in Oregon for students needing a higher level of care, relationships should be developed and nurtured with alcohol and drug treatment agencies and support services in the Salem and Portland communities in support of students.

Focus Outreach and Programming Efforts to Specific Groups of Students

Willamette is a diverse institution with schools, programs, and students with disparate and distinct needs. As such, nuanced and culturally informed programming to specific populations are needed. Specific emphasis may include the following populations:

- First and second year, largely residential students
- Graduate students, including law students specifically
- PNCA and the community of artists
- Student athletes

Update Medical Amnesty Policy

The Medical Amnesty Policy was updated in the summer of 2024, immediately after this review period as outlined below:

Willamette University Amnesty Process

Willamette University prioritizes the health, safety, and well-being of all community members. To encourage students to seek assistance in emergencies involving alcohol or drugs. The amnesty process aims to ensure that students take responsibility for their own health and safety and that of others, even when such situations involve potential violations of University policies. This amnesty process is

designed to foster a supportive and safe environment at Willamette University by encouraging students to prioritize health and safety without fear of disciplinary action in emergencies.

Encouragement to Seek Help: All community members are encouraged to immediately seek help for anyone in need due to intoxication or drug-related emergencies.

Amnesty for Seeking Help: Students who seek medical attention for themselves or others will not face disciplinary charges for the use or possession of alcohol or drugs during that incident. This protection also extends to students who report misconduct or assist as witnesses and cooperate with officials.

Conditions for Amnesty: The student must remain at the scene of the incident after seeking assistance until given permission to depart by a University official. The student must agree to comply with any recommendations or educational conversation as determined by Student Affairs staff members.

Limitations: This amnesty policy is intended for isolated incidents and may not apply in cases of repeated or severe violations of University alcohol or drug policies. This process does not relieve any student or organization responsible for other policy violations that have occurred during the incident. The process does not exempt students from responsibility for other policy violations that may have occurred before seeking assistance.

Cannabis Psychoeducation

More education about all facets of cannabis use, misuse and abuse is needed. Data identifying a relationship between cannabis use and psychotic episodes is growing, and is reflected in the experience of the clinicians in Bishop Wellness Center. Consultations with the clinicians in Bishop Wellness Center also confirm a relative lack of understanding among students about this important connection. While information and referrals are provided to impacted students once they seek services at the Health or Counseling Center, more can be done proactively to address this concern.

Psilocybin Products Psychoeducation

Oregon recently passed laws that make psilocybin products legal for use in therapy and medical practices, which may decrease stigma from use and increase interest in trying psychedelics in students. With traditional students being in the window of experiencing a first psychotic episode that psychedelics can trigger, increased programming efforts need to be pushed to the student body to help understand the risks of using psychedelics for recreation.

Codify Process for Post Overdose/Alcohol Poisoning/Hospital Transport

Students are on occasion transported to the hospital/emergency department for alcohol or drug use related concerns. Our system is such that some of these transports are known to us as they happen, while others (mostly self-initiated and non-residential students) are not often identified. Intervention and support should be offered in these instances as students reintegrate into the university setting. Work is currently underway on this project, but policies and procedures should be clear, accessible, and culturally informed, and tailored to the needs of the student.

Expand Naloxone/Narcan Access

Willamette university should expand upon its current efforts to distribute naloxone/Narcan to community members and train them in its proper use. Efforts to educate students on the dangers of opioids and fentanyl should continue.

Utilize Healthy Minds Study Data

As a part of Willamette's four year JED Campus project, Willamette University administers two Healthy Minds Studies; the first in the fall of 2020, and the second in the fall of 2024. In addition to several health and wellness assessments in the instrument, students are asked about their alcohol and drug use and attitudes. While the 2020 survey was administered prior to this reporting period, the results of the second administration this fall should yield useful data to inform outreach efforts. These results are expected in 2025.

Establish Reasonable Expectations

Due to comparatively limited resources, Willamette University cannot offer comprehensive programming that addresses every AOD support need. Our efforts are maximized as we focus on general usage trends among our community and identify local community partners for collaboration. We aim to increase awareness and educational opportunities for students and staff.

Conclusion

Willamette University is committed to building and maintaining a healthy campus community that promotes the well-being and success of all its members. This review and subsequent goals and recommendations will enable the continued growth and improvement of our alcohol and other drug education and prevention programs. Willamette University remains committed to addressing shifting trends among our community members and implementing evidence-based programming, resources, and educational campaigns to address AOD use within our community.