

Willamette University
Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA)
Biennial Review: 2024-2025 AY and 2025-2026 AY
Completed September, 2026

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 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 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: Vector Solutions in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

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 the 2024-2025 academic year, all incoming first year students in both Salem and Portland participated in a 90 minute program called "Speak About It"; a program that uses true storytelling and

live performance to capture what healthy relationships and sex can and should look like. The show is performed by five actor-educators, and uses real stories written by real young people in order to engage students in conversations about consent, dating, sex, identity, alcohol and drug use, bystander intervention, sexual assault, and more.

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

There are a number of activities and interventions that address alcohol and drug use among our law students. Specifically:

- At orientation, the [Oregon Attorney Assistance Program](#) (OAAP) and faculty/staff explicitly discuss substance use and abuse concerns (alcohol as well as legal and illegal substances) with new law students. Students are provided with resources for assistance and discuss the connection between professional responsibility and alcohol/substance use.
- This programming continues at the Law Student Mental Health Week, in October. The Oregon Attorney Assistance Program is invited to speak as well.
- Student organizations are encouraged to plan alcohol and substance free events.
- Law school staff provide direct advising and referrals throughout the year to students on healthy choices related to alcohol and substance use. They also provide advising related to seeking resources for alcohol and substance use challenges and attorney licensure.
- The Law School participates in the Opportunities for Law in Oregon (OLIO) program with the Oregon State Bar, which discusses healthy choices related to alcohol and substance use with approximately 25 incoming and upper division students each year.
- All JD students are required to take a Professional Responsibility course. This course explicitly discusses the relationship between alcohol/substance use and professional responsibility, and encourages students to seek resources when appropriate.
- OAPP 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 on the Salem and PNCA campuses. Clinicians 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). This assessment was updated in 2025. 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, students that flag “high” are provided the more comprehensive AUDIT and DAST inventories. If substance abuse disorder is suspected, intervention is offered.

Administrators at Bishop Wellness Center have also established collaborative relationships with several area Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOPs) - two recently opened programs in Salem, and one on-line program based in Portland.

PNCA Health Coach and Educator

Willamette has a Health Coach and Educator position on the PNCA campus. 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:

2024-2025

Educational Programs:

- 13 Overdose Response trainings held, which talk about the science of substances, harm reduction, testing, and saving a life.
- 10 QPR training sessions held, where increased substance use is discussed as a warning sign for suicide risk.
- 10 self-care planning tabling sessions held during Focus Week, where many students identified some aspect of their use of substances as something to address during finals.
- 24 posts on the @pnca_health_educator Instagram account that mention substances, Narcan, or substance use harm reduction.
- Narcan is available 24/7 for free to anyone in the PNCA community through the health supplies vending machine.
- Testing strips and instructions are available 24/7 for free to anyone in the PNCA community through the free supplies boxes outside the HCE office.

1:1 support:

- Health Coach met with 6 students self-identifying as in substance use recovery

2025-2026

Educational Programs:

- 3 Overdose Response trainings held, which talk about the science of substances, harm reduction, testing, and saving a life.
- 5 QPR training sessions held, where increased substance use is discussed as a warning sign for suicide risk.

- 5 self-care planning tabling sessions held during Focus Week, where some students identified some aspect of their use of substances as something to address during finals.
- 5 harm reduction and substance use tabling sessions, where we gave out 100 boxes filled with harm reduction supplies and information.
- 1 Harm Reduction Bingo event, where students answered questions about substance use, harm reduction, and school resources
- 30 posts on the @pnca_health_educator Instagram account that mention substances, Narcan, or substance use harm reduction.
- Narcan is available 24/7 for free to anyone in our community through the health supplies vending machine.
- Testing strips and instructions are available 24/7 for free to anyone in our community through the free supplies boxes outside the HCE office.
- 3 Posters designed by a peer (meant to go in dorm hallways, etc) that detailed substance use and harm reduction highlights.

1:1 Student Support

- Health Coach met with 4 students self-identifying as in substance use recovery

Residence Life and Gender Resource and Advocacy Center 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.

The team of Peer Educators through the Gender Resource and Advocacy Center (GRAC) table and program often regarding consent. The impact of drug and alcohol use has on consent is routinely addressed in these programs.

Athletics

Approximately 25% of Willamette students are student athletes. There have a number of intentional actions that address alcohol and drug use among this population:

- The Athletic Department routinely provides information regarding student-athlete mental health through social media, which does include information around alcohol and other drug use.
- Annually, all student-athletes sign a few forms that include education regarding drug and alcohol use related directly, or indirectly, to being a student-athlete. Athletic coaches and administration speak to each team about this at the beginning of the semester Compliance meetings.
- All student athletes sign a Drug Testing consent form. This form educates them on the NCAA Banned Drug list and gives examples of NCAA Banned Substances in Each Drug Class. It also touches on Nutritional and Dietary Supplements and the warnings with the use of those drugs.
- The required Hazing Prevention Pledge includes the harmful effects of alcohol consumption in hazing and mentions the amnesty policy protecting students who report concerns.
- In 2025-2026 - leaders from each team went through a hazing prevention training that also addressed the negative effects of using alcohol or other drugs, in addition to hazing.

Community Action Fund for Equity and Sustainability (CAFES)

The Community Action Fund for Equity and Sustainability Committee is a student-led program that provides funding for projects and programs that advance sustainability, equity and social justice in and around Willamette's campus and community. Through a grant funded by CAFES, fentanyl test strips available were made available at various locations free of charge on the Salem campus

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 Process

Willamette updated its Medical Amnesty Process in the Student Code of Conduct in 2024 to read:

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 or after seeking assistance.

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.). In 2024, Willamette also updated its [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 updated in the summer of 2024 and is 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 through Vector Training: "AlcoholEdu for College":

Figure 1: 2024-2025 Drinking Categories for First Year Students (n=416)

Examination of Drinking Rates

Here is how your students reported their drinking rates on the Pre-Course Survey as well as after an intersession period (typically 30-45 days).

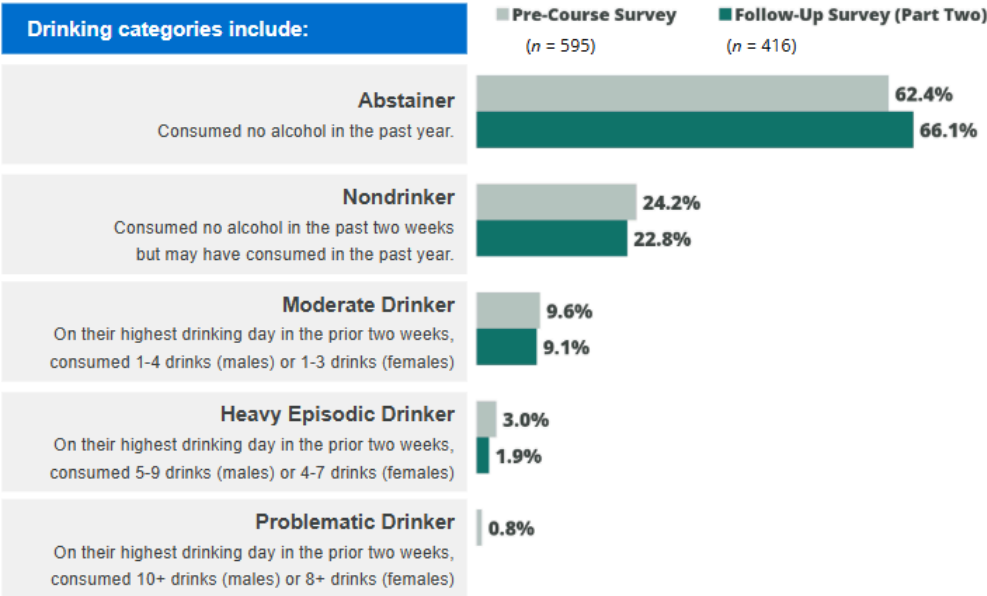


Figure 2: 2025-2026 Drinking Categories for First Year Students (n=325)

Examination of Drinking Rates

Here is how your students reported their drinking rates on the Pre-Course Survey as well as after an intersession period (typically 30-45 days).

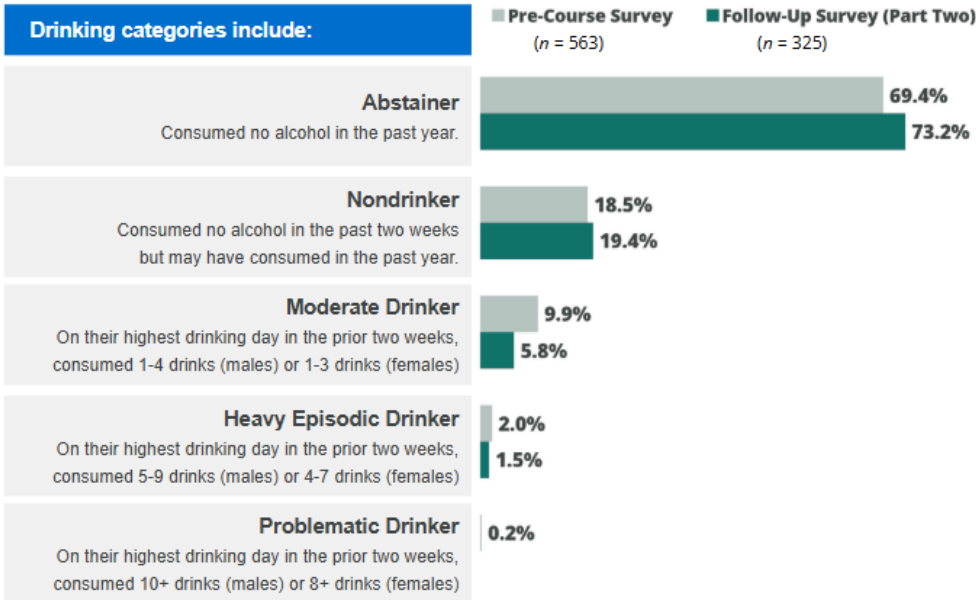


Figure 3: Other Highlights from AlcoholEDU Data for First Year Incoming Students

Data Highlights	2024 -2025	2025-2026
Reported high risk drinking in previous 2 weeks	3%	2%
No drinking in past year	66%	73%
Of those that do drink, “No drinking in past two weeks”	24%	19%
Indicated that the module helped them establish a plan ahead of time to make responsible decisions about drinking	84%	86%
Most commonly reported risk behavior	Shots, “chugging”, 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”

Healthy Minds Data

In 2021, Willamette launched a four year JED campus project designed to identify opportunities to enhance emotional health and substance abuse and suicide prevention efforts on campus. In 2024 and as a part of this project, the second of two Healthy Minds Studies was administered to the Willamette student population on all campuses.

The survey had a 38% response rate and generally good representation across all demographic categories including school, class standing, graduate/undertgraduate, gender, and race/ethnicity. Several questions in the assessment pertained to alcohol and drug use.

The following figures outline the relevant results of the 2024 Healthy Minds Study.

Figure 3: Any Alcohol Use over the Past 2 Weeks, 2024 Healthy Minds Study

ALCOHOL USE

Over the past 2 weeks, did you drink any alcohol?

857 Responses

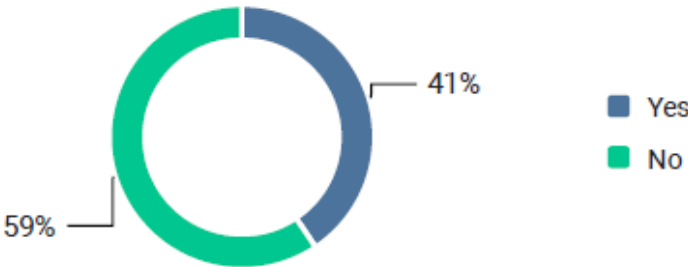


Figure 4: Of Those that Drank Alcohol, Binge Drinking Behavior, 2024 Healthy Minds Study
BINGE DRINKING BEHAVIOR*

The following question asks about how much you drink. A "drink" means any of the following:

- A 12-ounce can or bottle of beer
- A 4-ounce glass of wine
- A shot of liquor straight or in a mixed drink

During the last two weeks, how many times have you had 4 (if female), 5 (if male) or more drinks in a row?

*Among students who indicated having consumed any alcohol within the past 2 weeks

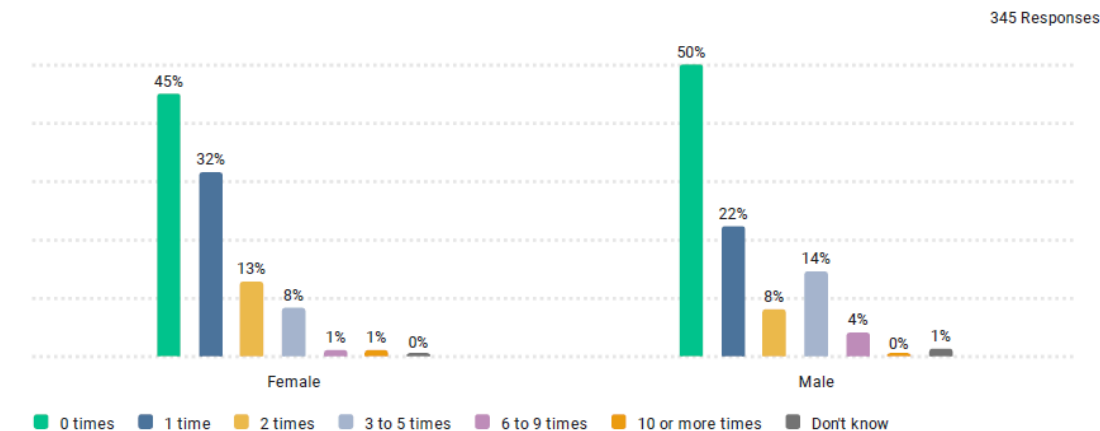


Figure 5: Any Drug Use over the Past 30 Days, 2024 Healthy Minds Study
DRUG USE

Over the past 30 days, have you used any of the following drugs? (Select all that apply)

840 Responses	
Substance	Percentage of Responses
Cannabis products that include THC (including smoking, vaping, and edibles)	28%
Cocaine (any form, including crack, powder, or freebase)	0%
Heroin	0%
Methamphetamines (also known as speed, crystal meth, Tina, T, or ice)	0%
Other stimulants (such as Ritalin, Adderall) without a prescription or more than prescribed	1%
MDMA (also known as Ecstasy or Molly)	0%
Opioid pain relievers (such as Vicodin, OxyContin, Percocet, Demerol, Dilaudid, codeine, hydrocodone, methadone, morphine) without a prescription or more than prescribed	0%
Benzodiazepines (such as Valium, Ativan, Klonopin, Xanax, or Rohypnal/Roofies) without a prescription or more than prescribed	1%
Ketamine (also known as K, Special K)	0%
LSD (also known as acid)	0%
Psilocybin (also known as magic mushrooms, boomers, shrooms)	2%
Kratom	0%
Athletic performance enhancers (anything that violates policies set by your school or any athletic governing body)	0%
Other drugs without a prescription	0%
No, none of these	71%

Alcohol and Drug Incident Data

There were 29 substantiated alcohol and/or drug violations of the Student Code of Conduct for the 2024-2025 academic year (23 on the Salem Campus and 6 on the PNCA Campus. There were 14 substantiated alcohol and/or drug violations in the 2025-2026 academic year (all were on the Salem campus). All were by residential students living on campus.

Across both years of this review, there were 29 total alcohol related violations; overwhelmingly an underaged person in possession. Most alcohol infractions were by first and second year students, which aligns with PNCA and Willamette’s one and two year live on requirement, respectively. 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 6: Code of Conduct Violations by Class Standing

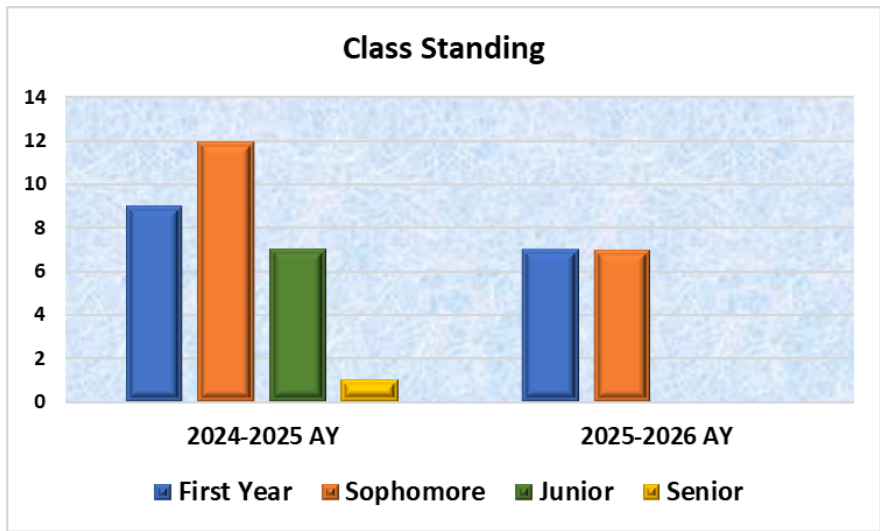


Figure 7: Code of Conduct Violations by Location

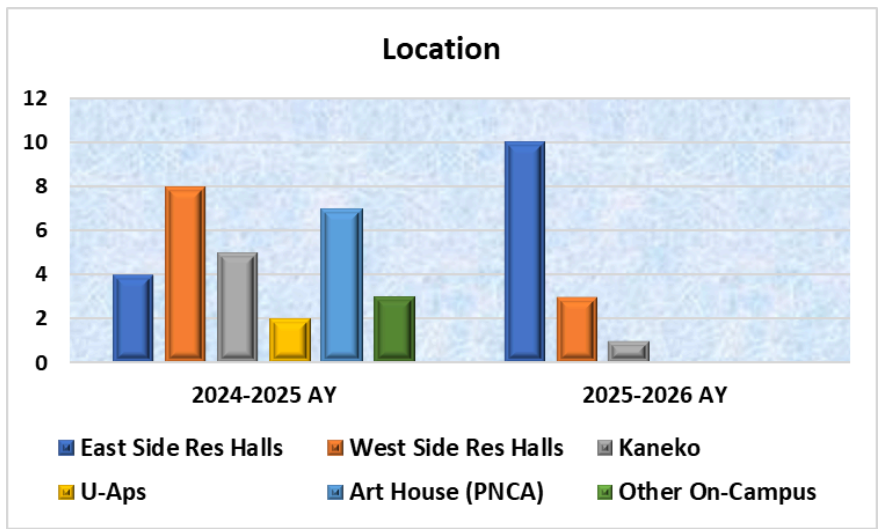
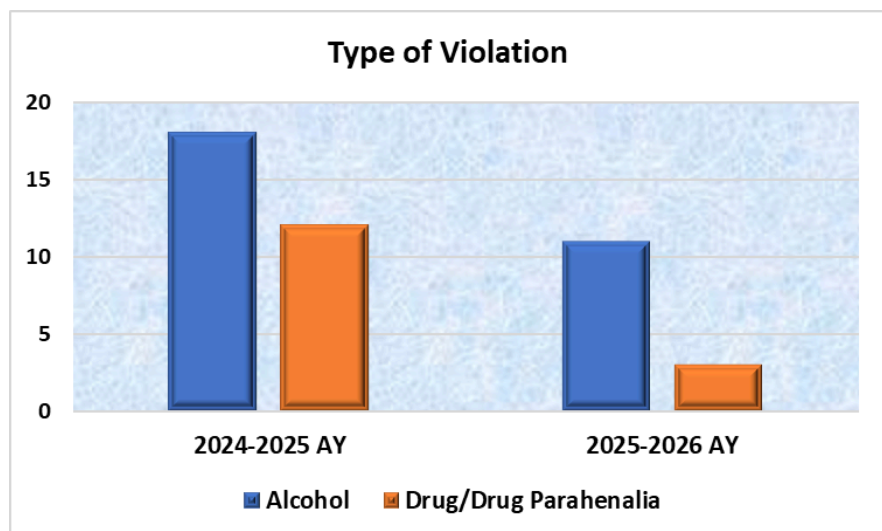


Figure 8: Code of Conduct Violations by Type



During this review period, there were a total of 4 hospital transports that included some kind of alcohol/substance mis-use, though of these transports all were primarily related to an acute mental health concern. Three were Salem students (one first year student, two second year students), and one was a first year PNCA student. 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 a half dozen 5 referrals for higher levels of off campus AOD services specifically over the course of this review period. However, there were more than two dozen referrals for higher levels of care over this course of this review period initiated from the clinicians in Counseling Services for mental health reasons that included known comorbid drug involvement. 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.

It is also posited that the relative reduction of drug and drug paraphernalia violations on campus is perhaps related to an increase in the use of THC edibles, which are odorless and harder to detect when being used.

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 and the response rate is very high. 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. Also of note are the efforts of the law school specifically to address alcohol and drug use in their student population.

The development, improvement, and implementation Bishop Lifestyle Assessment Form (BLAF) has also proven to be a helpful screening tool for students accessing care in Bishop Wellness Center. In this review period, the tool was updated to include the full MAST (Michigan Alcohol Screening Test) - and AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test) for those flagging high on the alcohol screening questions in the BLAF. This assures a more robust assessment for at risk students.

Over the course of this review period, nearly 1600 individual students across all schools were screened for alcohol and drug mis-use in Bishop Wellness Center. 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 those students needing a higher level of care.

In addition to the services provided for mental health and substance use, Willamette continues to partner with Uwill, which provides additional access to students who want to access care outside of Bishop Wellness Center. Willamette and PNCA have also partnered with Oregon Health Authority and local health departments to expand naloxone training and access across campus, as well as access to fentanyl testing strips.

There are some areas for growth identified, however. While there is programming dedicated during the onboarding process for new incoming (especially first year and law) students, there is comparatively little programming offered throughout the rest of the academic year. There is a notable absence of dedicated programming in the residence halls on both the Salem and PNCA campuses that should be addressed.

Also of note is a continued lack of a university wide, coordinated AOD programming effort, which can be attributed to on-going 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

Develop a Comprehensive AOD Prevention Program Development

As was noted in the previous biennial review, there remains 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, which would be responsible for spearheading outreach, education, and programming efforts across all schools and campuses.

As was identified in the previous biennial report, as well as in Willamette's 4 year [JED Campus Initiative](#), this was also a notable gap in services. Investing in such an effort would be aligned with our current needs, as well as our JED Campus efforts.

Increase Available On-Campus Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services

For many complicated and interconnected reasons, Oregon consistently ranks among the least resourced states in the country for substance abuse problems and access to treatment. And while drug and alcohol mis-use rates are comparatively low on Willamette's campuses, accessing help for addiction is disproportionately difficult both on and off campus. 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 individuals underserved.

Build Collaborative Relationships with Local Resources

Despite the lack of community resources available in Oregon for students needing a higher level of care, Willamette should continue to foster relationships with community alcohol and drug treatment agencies, as well as ancillary support services in the Salem and Portland communities.

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

Provide 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. These events are very infrequent, but quite impactful for the affected student and larger community. 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.

Provide Psilocybin Psychoeducation

In 2020, Oregon became the first state to pass laws that make psilocybin products legal for use in therapy and medical practices, which undoubtedly reduced stigma. With traditional students being in the window of experiencing a first psychotic episode that psychedelics can trigger, more information about the risks of using psychedelic drugs for recreational use of psychedelics should be shared with the student body.

Further Refine Process for Post Overdose/Alcohol Poisoning/Hospital Transport

Data across several years indicate that students are very rarely transported to the hospital for issues related exclusively to accidental alcohol poisoning or drug overdoses. Rather, the primary reasons for hospital transports known to the university are mental health emergencies (which may include the intentional mis use of drugs/medicine), followed by physical health emergencies. The current process in these cases involves requesting that a student meet with the relevant Dean of Students' Office for follow-up. Importantly however, there are currently no sanctions or requirements before the student reintegrates into the university setting. Willamette should investigate the feasibility of such requirements, understanding that any policies and procedures should be clear, accessible, culturally informed, and tailored to the needs of the student.

Utilize the JED Campus Final Report and Healthy Minds Studies to Inform Resources

Willamette transitioned to JED Campus Alumni Status in the fall of 2025. During the project, two [Healthy Minds Studies](#) were administered to the student population, one in 2021 and one in 2024. These surveys yielded helpful data regarding alcohol and drug use on Willamette campuses and provides useful data to inform outreach efforts. More information can be found in [Willamette's JED Campus Final Report](#).

Communicate Scope of Offerings

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 identifying 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.