



BIENNIAL REPORT

Complying with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations 2012



Prepared by:

**The Academic Support Center
and
The Office of Public Safety**

**Five Towns College
305 North Service Road
Dix Hills, New York 11746**

2012 – 2013

Biennial Report

Complying with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations 2012

Descriptions of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Program (AOD) Elements

Five Towns College, an institution of higher education that receives federal funds, is required to certify that it has adopted and implemented a drug and alcohol use policy in accordance with the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D) and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226). The College has instituted a zero tolerance policy that is delineated in College handbooks and is publicly announced at all major faculty and staff meetings and student orientations. This policy has been implemented to present pertinent information regarding the severity of substance abuse, prevention of the unlawful possession, use, and distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol on campus by students, faculty, and staff, and provide awareness of some of the physical and mental consequences of using these substances. Five Towns College has also provided informed statements in the *Codes of Conduct for Students, Faculty, and Staff* regarding the regulation to avoid the use of illegal substances.

Specifically, the *Faculty Handbook* states:

All professional staff members are advised that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited at the College. Professional staff members that are convicted for violation of such prohibitions will have their employment at the College terminated (p. 86).

The *Student Handbook* (p. 38) reiterates the College's stand on zero tolerance and lists the possible legal ramifications. In addition the "Student Code of Conduct" clearly states:

Students shall not possess or use any weapon (or device that has projectiles), alcoholic beverage, or controlled substance, including marijuana, narcotic, chemical, or inhalant, unless prescribed by a student's treating physician and used solely by that student as directed (p. 26).

The *Residence Life Handbook* states:

The actions listed below are prohibited.

Alcohol

*Possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverage on campus.
Being in the presence of an alcohol violation.*

Drugs

Refer to the Student Handbook for the Guide to a Drug-Free Campus. Unlawful possession, use, or sale of controlled substances or drug paraphernalia.

Behaviors related to illicit drug use consumed (within or outside of the Residence Halls).

Being in the presence of a drug violation (p. 4).

The *Staff Handbook* repeats the above statements:

All professional staff members are advised that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited. Professional staff members that are convicted for violation of such prohibitions will have their employment at the College terminated.

In accordance with the regulations of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the College has established an awareness program to inform employees about the danger of drug abuse. Videos, books, and pamphlets describing the danger of drug abuse are available to all professional staff members as well as referral to appropriate agencies for drug counseling or rehabilitation (p. 7).

In addition, the Counseling Office states:

Counseling Services at Five Towns College provides educational presentations on Drug and Alcohol awareness and prevention for students, faculty, and staff throughout the academic year. To support this effort, representatives from the Huntington Drug and Alcohol Counseling/Education Center present workshops and training programs for all Five Towns College populations but specifically, those deemed high risk because of ongoing substance abuse dependencies. Residence Hall Assistants attend a particularly focused program to learn how to help their peers develop an understanding of the detriments of using recreational drugs.

Representatives from the Huntington Drug and Alcohol Counseling/Education Center present workshops and training programs for staff and students. Residence Hall staff members are mandated to attend a program to learn how to guide their students to develop a positive experience at college, provide information to prevent drinking, using recreational drugs, and understanding the potentially dangerous repercussions of substance abuse. Social skills are taught so that resistance to substance abuse can be developed.

CHOICES, a life skills program is also used to engage students in a self-reflecting process where they independently choose to change high-risk substance abuse behaviors. Focus is on providing accurate, non-judgmental information and individual responsibility for change. This strategy is used for high-risk students in a one-on-one situation.

BASICS, (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students), is yet another program used at Five Towns College. It is a harm reduction approach focusing on patterns, prevention, and risk factors associated with college drinking. This is conducted on an individual basis or occasionally in a small group setting.

Five Towns College is a member of the Long Island Consortium on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (LICASA). Regularly scheduled meetings provide additional, undated training, resources, and referrals for information and trends regarding the problems of substance abuse. Rehabilitation units, Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, and peer mentoring referrals are standard support mechanisms.

Five Towns College provides strong student support services. Through workshops, individual counseling, peer support, and referral services, our students are educated and made aware of the significance of understanding the need to resist substance abuse.

Faculty and staff are informed about specific programs at faculty and staff professional development days, and are encouraged to see the College Counselor when particular concerns in terms of drug and alcohol abuse surface. A confidential environment ensures that individual privacy for all counseling visits.

Referrals for alcohol and drug abuse include:

AA Meetings.....	(631) 669-1124
Al Anon.....	(631) 669-1124
Catholic Charities-Alcohol and Substance Abuse	(631) 543-6200
Drug Help Hot Line	(800) 488-DRUG
Huntington Drug and Alcohol Center	(631) 271-3591
Pederson Kraig – Addiction.....	(631) 920-8300
South Oaks Hospital.....	(631) 264-4000

Statement of AOD Program Goals and a Discussion of Goal Achievement

While Five Towns College recognizes the fact that there may be occasional infractions to this policy, the goal is to provide a safe and secure environment where students, faculty, and staff abide by the rules and regulations, particularly in terms of drug and alcohol abuse. To that effect, all infractions of policy are recorded and addressed by the appropriate administrative unit. Students are brought to disciplinary hearings where they are given the opportunity to discuss their issues in an impartial setting. Sanctions are determined when necessary by the Disciplinary Committee. Since one of the goals of the College is to guarantee a zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol, every effort is made to disseminate information regarding the repercussions of substance abuse.

Another goal of the College's program is to identify those students who may be in need of intervention. Faculty and staff are encouraged to look for the following behaviors:

- Inability to complete assignments
- Excessive class absences
- Indecision
- Inability to concentrate in class
- Suspicion of substance abuse
- Suspicion of eating disorder
- Inappropriate classroom or social behavior
- Abrupt decline in academic performance
- Student's self-disclosure of a personal problem
- Suspicion of being a victim of domestic violence
- Expression of a desire for change
- Difficulties in relationships
- Difficulties in adjustment to college
- Frequent crying
- Decline in personal grooming
- Social isolation

Students at risk of any of the above are encouraged to seek assistance at the College Counseling Office. They are assured this is a confidential process. The following strategies for referring students have been developed to ensure that faculty and staff members realize the significance of the process and the need to provide intervention when necessary:

1. Give students positive reasons for referral to counseling services. Address the benefits working toward behavior changes and self-improvement to reduce the possible stigma of counseling.
2. Encourage the student to make an appointment as soon as possible or walk with them to the Counseling Office.
3. Rather than referring a student to Counseling Services or a therapist, in general, it is helpful to refer to the counselors by name. It alleviates some of the trepidation of meeting with a stranger.
4. Once the student makes the appointment, suggest that he/she reports back to you to demonstrate your continued concern for his/her success. Stress the confidentiality of your meeting with the student and the student's meeting with the Counselor.

The Counseling Services Office makes every effort to inform the College community of the seriousness of drug and alcohol abuse, and the consequences, in terms of medical, physical, legal, and academic repercussions. Statistics that provide a tally of counseling visits, referrals, and sanctions for non-compliance with College regulations regarding alcohol and drug abuse

are compiled at the end of every semester and become a significant aspect of annual institutional assessment.

Summaries of AOD Program Strengths and Weaknesses

The program strengths are related to the effective transmission of information through the various venues at the College. The Counseling Office is particularly effective in maintaining current literature, agency referrals, and Internet resources that are appropriate to students, faculty, and staff.

The College is reviewing the possibility of increasing the hours of the Counseling Office to improve accessibility of services. To date, there are other licensed counselors at the College who are available for issues that may arise, but it would be beneficial to have a centralized office with extended hours.

Procedures for Distributing Annual AOD Notification to Students and Employees

Notification to students, staff, and faculty is currently attainable through a variety of venues. College handbooks, which are distributed annually, clearly state the policies. All constituents have access to on-line publications of College materials that are updated regularly. The College newspaper and monthly flyers reinforce dissemination of information.

Copies of the Policies Distributed to Students and Employees

“In accordance with the regulations of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the College has established an awareness program to inform employees about the danger of drug abuse. Videos, books, and pamphlets describing the danger of drug abuse are available to all professional staff members as well as referral to appropriate agencies for drug counseling or rehabilitation (Faculty Handbook, p. 86).”

Recommendations for Revising AOD Programs

The College is investigating the possibility of structuring collaborative agreements with many of the referral agencies for alcohol and drug abuse. An agreement with a major hospital facility in the contiguous area has already been instituted.

A major concern is the transportation to and from the College because of the suburban location, which affects the students’ abilities to go to and from agency referrals. The College currently has an agreement with a local taxi service to shuttle students back and forth to the emergency room of a local hospital for medical emergencies, but this service needs to be expanded to students needing agency referrals.