TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

2026 Biennial Review

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Executive Summary

The University of Texas at Austin is committed to the well-being, growth and knowledge of its students and staff. The University strives to provide the necessary resources for the fair enforcement of all relevant rules and regulations, education about the effects of substance misuse, recovery and support. In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the University publishes information regarding its educational programs related to: substance misuse prevention; sanctions for violations of state and federal laws, and University policy; a description of health risks associated with substance use; and a description of available treatment programs. Campus notification of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Biennial Review Notice is sent annually to students, faculty and staff via e-mail from Texas Student Experience and Human Resources.

The 2026 Biennial Review is a summary of programs, policies and services for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years. Documentation in the report is a compilation of self-reported efforts from a variety of University departments and units who were asked to review the 2024 Biennial Review and provide updates. The participating departments and units were selected based on their roles within the University community and their programs' relevance to the 2026 Biennial Review.

Key findings of the 2026 Biennial Review are summarized below:

- During the 2024-2025 academic year, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity reported a total of 108 alcohol and seven drug violations. During the 2025-2026 academic year, there were a total of 82 alcohol and 11 drug violations by students.
- Based on survey results, nearly 88.5% of UT Austin substance misuse programs conduct evaluations, using a variety of assessment methods, including quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods.
- 92.3% of programs assessed were reported as either very effective or somewhat effective.

The 2026 Biennial Review highlights the University's continued commitment to maintaining a healthy, safe and supportive campus environment through evidence-informed prevention, education, intervention, recovery and research efforts. Findings indicate strong program effectiveness, broad campus collaboration and ongoing compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. The review also identified opportunities to strengthen and sustain these efforts through the following recommendations:

- Continue strengthening collaborative, public health-focused approaches to prevention, harm reduction and recovery support.
- Maintain evidence-based interventions and consistent conduct practices across student populations.
- Expand strategic communication and outreach regarding substance misuse resources and support services.
- Enhance assessment and data collection efforts to support continuous program improvement.
- Increase awareness and accessibility of recovery and harm reduction resources.
- Continue using research and campus data to guide prevention priorities and future planning.

Introduction to The University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at Austin is the top public university in Texas and the flagship of The University of Texas System. UT Austin is an influential catalyst for scientific, economic and societal progress. Founded in 1883, the University's main campus spans 441 acres with a community of more than 55,000 students, more than 4,500 faculty members and more than 15,000 staff members.

The University is at the forefront of energy, AI, medicine, entrepreneurship and national security, offering more than 150 undergraduate degree programs and more than 200 graduate programs across 16 colleges and schools. As a globally recognized research leader, UT Austin conducted more than $1.37 billion in research in FY25.

The University's faculty and staff are committed to the well-being of all campus community members, offering services and programs to optimize health and safety throughout the campus. They work collaboratively across academic disciplines and administrative programs on well-being resources and programming, including alcohol and other drug misuse education and prevention. The goal is to help the campus community achieve a productive and successful University experience and minimize substance misuse. Departments including academic, research, administrative, athletic and student life are engaged in and dedicated to these efforts. Initiatives include alcohol and drug research, programs, policy, regulations, prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery.

Core Purpose and Mission: Institutional

Mission

The mission of The University of Texas at Austin is to achieve excellence in the interrelated areas of undergraduate education, graduate education, research and public service. The University provides superior and comprehensive educational opportunities at the baccalaureate through doctoral and special professional educational levels.

The University contributes to the advancement of society through research, creative activity, scholarly inquiry, and the development and dissemination of new knowledge, including the commercialization of University discoveries. The University preserves and promotes the arts, benefits the state's economy, serves the citizens through public programs and provides other public service.

Core Purpose

To transform lives for the benefit of society.

Core Values

— Learning – A caring community, all of us students, helping one another grow.
— Discovery – Expanding knowledge and human understanding.
— Freedom – To seek the truth and express it.
— Leadership – The will to excel with integrity and the spirit that nothing is impossible.
— Individual Opportunity – Many options, diverse people and ideas, one university.
— Responsibility – To serve as a catalyst for positive change in Texas and beyond.

Student Honor Code

Affirmation

I pledge, as a member of The University of Texas community, to do my work honestly, respectfully and through the intentional pursuit of learning and scholarship.

Elaboration

- I pledge to be honest about what I create and to acknowledge what I use that belongs to others.
- I pledge to value the process of learning in addition to the outcome, while celebrating and learning from mistakes.
- This code encompasses all of the academic and scholarly endeavors of the University community." The University of Texas at Austin strives to create a dynamic and engaging community of teaching and learning where students feel intellectually challenged; build knowledge and skills; and develop critical thinking, creativity and intellectual curiosity. As a member of this community, it is important for all students to engage in assignments, exams and other coursework with openness, integrity and a willingness to make mistakes and learn from them.

University Code of Conduct

Each member of the University is expected to uphold the University's values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness and respect toward peers and community.

Core Purpose and Mission: Departments and Units

Each UT Austin department and unit has as their mission the provision of services that will facilitate the fulfillment of the University's mission and core purpose. Certain departments and units focus their services on issues related to this report, particularly the following:

Center for Students in Recovery provides a supportive community where students in recovery and in hope of recovery can achieve academic success while enjoying a genuine college experience free from substances. The department offers ongoing support, a community of peers in recovery and a dedicated physical space for students in recovery or seeking recovery. Participation is free and voluntary. The department provides ongoing programs that support recovery, such as sober social activities, recovery meetings, service and volunteer opportunities on campus and in the community, scholarships, peer and professional support, and academic advocacy.

Counseling and Mental Health Center supports undergraduate, graduate and professional students through assessment and referral, group and individual counseling, psychiatry and well-being services. The team provides mental health programs and services that enhance and support students' well-being, in support of their academic and life goals. The department provides a range of mental health services and offers short-term individual and group counseling for a wide range of issues including substance use and support for students interested in reducing or quitting tobacco and nicotine use. It does not provide long-term substance misuse disorder treatment or medically-supervised detoxification services. However, the department offers resource information for outpatient and residential treatment and provides formal substance misuse disorder assessments with a licensed counselor. Education and guidance are also available to parents, faculty and staff.

Employee Assistance Program strives to transform lives and improve personal and organizational effectiveness for the benefit of the entire UT Austin community. They provide health expertise, promote wellness and help develop solutions to life's challenges. They do this by providing brief counseling and consultation services, crisis intervention, assessment and referral, educational and training programs, and supervisory consultation.

Human Resources' HR Business Partnerships mission is to consult with staff or managers of staff in colleges, schools and administrative units regarding performance management, conflict resolution, flexible workplace and staffing strategies, employee morale and satisfaction, and departmental effectiveness**.** Departments consult when they are concerned about alcohol use impacting the performance and conduct of staff.

Longhorn Orientation spearheads programming for thousands of students and families each year. New student orientation focuses on ensuring a successful transition to campus and registration for classes. Included in students' required information is content covering health and well-being, financial aid, campus safety, involvement and education on other related University services. The family orientation program provides resources and information that help families support their students. The team also facilitates student leadership opportunities throughout orientation.

Longhorn Wellness Center supports UT Austin students' well-being by addressing priority health issues through an evidence-based public health approach. One of its functions is providing accurate and effective substance misuse prevention and education. The department provides comprehensive programs and initiatives to help students make informed choices that support their success and well-being during college and beyond. In addition to substance misuse prevention, the Longhorn Wellness Center addresses a variety of mental and physical health topics.

Mental Health Assistance and Response Team (MHART) is a mobile crisis response service. MHART responds to mental health–related crises on campus and works collaboratively with campus partners to help connect individuals to appropriate services. MHART serves students, faculty and staff and provides on-site assessments, safety planning, resource navigation and support with follow-up care.

Occupational Health Program partners with the employee, Environmental Health and Safety, and Human Resources to understand working conditions and to ensure that precautions are taken to protect the University's most valuable asset — our employees. They provide health risk assessments, lab safety programs, job related health risk counseling, medical clearance and job specific fit testing, tuberculosis screening, drug testing and vaccinations. They also provide follow-up of work-related injuries and illnesses, and fitness for duty consultations.

Prevention and Risk Education aims to build the capacity of the institution and all student organizations by providing proactive anti-hazing education and training, safety education for all student organizations, and the Successful Student Organization Program. These efforts all promote positive organizational culture and minimize high-risk behaviors through innovation and collaboration.

SHIFT is a University initiative that aims to shift the campus culture of substance use from one of misuse to one centered on holistic well-being. SHIFT's mission is to mobilize the UT Austin community to transform the campus environment into an empowered culture of mindful decision-making and open conversations about substance use. By leveraging existing programs and developing innovative approaches, SHIFT engages students, faculty, staff and the broader UT Austin community to create meaningful and sustainable culture change that challenges existing norms and centers student well-being.

Sorority and Fraternity Life fosters responsible leadership and personal development within the sorority and fraternity community through education, coaching, and collaboration with individuals and organizations. The team is committed to advancing a supportive environment that strengthens a sense of belonging and aligns members' actions with their shared values, ensuring a holistic and enriching college experience. This unit serves as the University liaison to the following registered student organization governing councils and their member organizations: Interfraternity Council, Latino Pan-Hellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Texas Asian Pan-Hellenic Council, University Panhellenic Council and Affiliate Leadership Circle.

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity promotes appropriate standards of conduct for the University community. This unit is responsible for investigating alleged violations of institutional rules and for implementing the discipline process.

Student Organizations enhances the campus experience by empowering and developing student organization leadership. This unit provides resources and guidance on University policies, and fosters collaboration that contributes to a vibrant and engaged Longhorn community.

Student Outreach and Support offers support and assistance to students experiencing difficult and unexpected situations and urgent matters. Through individualized consultation, the unit provides assistance, intervention and referrals to support students navigating challenging or unexpected issues that impact their well-being and academic success.

Texas Athletics is committed to aligning its vision, core purpose and values with those of the University, as stated in the University's Intercollegiate Athletics Strategic Plan. Specifically, the core purpose of Texas Athletics is "to prepare students to succeed with integrity — in academics, in athletics and in life."

University Health Services is the on-campus medical facility for undergraduate, graduate and professional students. The team offers comprehensive healthcare services, public health education, campus-wide immunization clinics, leadership for emerging health issues and support for students interested in reducing or quitting tobacco, nicotine and other substance use.

University Housing and Dining cultivates living learning communities that foster student engagement, growth and success at the University. The department conducts alcohol- and drug-related educational programming, in partnership with University departments, within residence halls to raise awareness of the resident population. In addition, University Housing and Dining creates bulletin boards to educate students on alcohol and drug-related data and risks. University Housing and Dining has Naloxone available at resident hall desks.

University of Texas Police Department (UTPD) employs more than 148 committed professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. UTPD is dedicated to serving and strengthening the campus community and provides comprehensive law enforcement services through specialized units, including Investigations, K-9, Executive Protection, Motors, the Medical District and an established West Campus patrol. The department also operates its own 911 Dispatch Center. UTPD officers, dispatchers and professional staff work collaboratively to support campus safety, emergency response and community engagement. UTPD operates through a community-oriented policing philosophy, encouraging open communication between UTPD and the communities they serve. In alignment with this mission, UTPD maintains a dedicated Victim Services Unit that provides advocacy, support and resources to individuals impacted by crime.

Veteran and Military Affiliated Services is dedicated to providing veterans, military personnel and their family members with the support needed to make the most of their educational experience. The unit equips student veterans and military affiliated students with the tools they need to achieve their highest personal and academic potential. The team works closely with other departments on campus and various community partners in order to connect veterans and military affiliated students with appropriate health, mental health and substance misuse resources.

Objectives of the Biennial Review

The University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining substance misuse prevention and education programs for its students and employees. The objective of this report is to document the University's efforts toward compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. In this section is an overview of the major goals of this report and the steps taken to achieve these goals.

Goals

- Be in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act by ensuring annual notification is sent out accordingly
- Document consistency of substance misuse sanctions
- Evaluate substance misuse prevention and education programs to ensure best practices

Report Overview

The 2026 Biennial Review is a summary of programs, policies and services for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years. This Biennial Review includes the following:

- Overview on the potential impact of the misuse of substances on individuals
- Description of substance misuse programs and resources offered on the University campus
- Identification of intervention, treatment and recovery assistance, other resources and research available to the campus community
- Discussion of methods in place to educate members of the University community about policies related to substance misuse, and sanctions in place to enforce these policies
- Documentation of all substance use cases adjudicated at the institution and the accompanying sanctions issued for these violations
- Review of the University's substance misuse-related policies, procedures, programming and intervention methods
- Presentation of reported programming effectiveness and plans for improvement
- Recommendations for improving substance misuse-related policies, procedures, programs and coordination

Health Risks of Alcohol Use and Drug Misuse

Alcohol use and other drug misuse can have significant effects on physical and mental health. Prevention, education and early intervention remain critical. Below is an overview of research about how alcohol use and drug misuse can affect the human mind and body.

Effects of Alcohol

Alcohol affects nearly every organ system and is associated with both short-term harms and long-term health conditions, including chronic disease and cancer.

Brain

Alcohol interferes with communication pathways in the brain, affecting mood, coordination, memory and judgment. These disruptions increase the risk of injury and impair cognitive functioning. Heavy drinking can result in blackouts or alcohol poisoning, which may suppress vital functions such as breathing.

Heart

Alcohol use can contribute to cardiovascular problems, including high blood pressure, arrhythmias, stroke and cardiomyopathy.

Immune System

Heavy alcohol use weakens the immune system and increases susceptibility to infections such as pneumonia and sepsis while slowing recovery from illness and injury.

Liver

Alcohol is a leading cause of liver disease. Alcohol-related liver disease progresses from fatty liver to alcoholic hepatitis and, in severe cases, cirrhosis. Nearly half of liver disease deaths in the United States involve alcohol.

Pancreas

Alcohol is a major risk factor for pancreatitis, a serious inflammation of the pancreas that can become chronic and lead to long-term complications.

Cancer

Alcohol is classified as a known human carcinogen, with a causal link to multiple cancers including breast, colon, esophagus, liver, mouth, throat and voice box. There is no safe level of alcohol use for cancer risk, and risk increases even at low levels of consumption.

Effects of Drug Misuse

Misuse of drugs, including prescription medications and illicit substances can affect multiple body systems. Effects vary based on the substance, dosage and duration of use.

Narcotics (Fentanyl, Heroin, Hydromorphone, Methadone, Morphine, Opium, Oxycodone, etc.)

Also known as “opioids,” the term “narcotic” comes from the Greek word for “stupor” and originally referred to a variety of substances that dulled the senses and relieved pain. Though some people still refer to all drugs as “narcotics,” today “narcotic” refers to opium, opium derivatives and their semi-synthetic substitutes. A more current term for these drugs, with less uncertainty regarding its meaning, is “opioid.” Examples include the illicit drug heroin and pharmaceutical drugs.

Negative effects include psychological dependence, physical dependence and withdrawal, drowsiness, inability to concentrate and apathy, slowed physical activity and breathing, constriction of the pupils, flushing of the face and neck, constipation, nausea and vomiting. Narcotic overdoses are not uncommon and can be fatal.

Stimulants (Amphetamines, Cocaine, Khat, Methamphetamine, etc.)

Stimulants speed up the body's systems. This class of drugs includes: prescription drugs including amphetamines (such as Adderall®, Dexedrine®), methylphenidate (such as Concerta®, Ritalin®) and diet aids (such as Adipex P®, Benzphetamine, Preludin®). This class also includes other illicitly used drugs such as methamphetamine, cocaine, methcathinone and other synthetic cathinones that are commonly sold under the guise of "bath salts."

Negative effects include aggression, suicidal or homicidal tendencies, paranoia, dizziness, tremors, headache, flushed skin, chest pain with palpitations, excessive sweating, vomiting and abdominal cramps. Stimulants significantly increase cardiovascular risk.

Depressants (Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, GHB, Rohypnol, etc.)

Depressants slow the central nervous system. This class of drugs includes barbiturates and benzodiazepines such as Valium® and Xanax®. Rohypnol® (flunitrazepam) is a benzodiazepine that is not manufactured or legally marketed in the United States, but it is used illegally. Sedative hypnotic medications such as Ambien® are for the short-term treatment of insomnia and share many of the properties of benzodiazepines. Other depressants include meprobamate, methaqualone (Quaalude®) and the illicit drug GHB.

Negative effects include impaired judgment, loss of motor coordination, weakness, headache, blurred vision, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, low blood pressure, and slowed breathing and reaction time. Long-term use can lead to dependence and withdrawal can be severe or life-threatening.

Hallucinogens (Ecstasy/MDMA, Ketamine, LSD, Psilocybin, etc.)

Hallucinogens are among the oldest known group of drugs used for their ability to alter human perception and mood. They come in a wide variety of forms and can be synthetically produced in illicit laboratories or found in plants or fungi. The most commonly used hallucinogens are psilocybin-containing mushrooms, LSD and Ecstasy/MDMA.

Negative effects include distortion of thoughts associated with time, space, forms and colors; fear, depression, anxiety and paranoia; coma, convulsions and seizures. Some hallucinogens can cause acute overdose that may lead to death.

Marijuana/Cannabis

Marijuana is a mind-altering (psychoactive) drug, produced by the Cannabis sativa plant, which contains hundreds of chemical compounds. THC (delta9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is believed to be the main ingredient that produces the psychoactive effect. Marijuana is grown in the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Caribbean, Africa and Asia. It can be smoked, mixed in foods (edibles) or brewed as tea.

Negative effects include problems with memory and learning; distorted perception; difficulty in thinking and problem solving; loss of coordination; dizziness, nausea, tachycardia, facial flushing, dry mouth and tremors. Approximately 3 in 10 people who use cannabis develop cannabis use disorder.

Anabolic Steroids (Testosterone, Trenbolone, Oxymetholone, Methandrostenolone, Nandrolone, Stanozolol, Boldenone, Oxandrolone, etc.)

Anabolic steroids are synthetically produced variants of the naturally occurring hormone testosterone. They are used in an attempt to promote muscle growth, enhance athletic or other physical performance, and improve physical appearance. Steroids are ingested orally, injected intramuscularly or applied to the skin.

Negative effects include mood swings, hostility, impaired judgment, aggression, hormonal disruption and changes, cardiovascular risk including heart attack, stroke and coronary artery disease, and infections due to nonsterile needles. Use of non-prescribed anabolic steroids is associated with serious long-term health consequences.

Inhalants

Inhalants are invisible, volatile substances found in common household products that produce chemical vapors to induce psychoactive or mind-altering effects. There are more than 1,000 products that are very dangerous when inhaled. Common household products such as glue, lighter fluid, cleaning fluids and paint produce chemical vapors that can be inhaled. Inhalants are often among the first drugs young children use.

Negative effects include brain damage affecting thinking, moving, vision and hearing, cognitive abnormalities ranging from mild impairment to severe dementia, muscle weakness, nausea, lack of appetite, and irregular heart rhythms. Long-term misuse can cause irreversible damage to the brain and other organs.

Designer Drugs (Bath Salts, K2/Spice, Synthetic Opioids)

The Drug Enforcement Administration reports that the use of clandestinely synthesized drugs continues to be a major worldwide problem. These drugs are illicitly produced with the intent of developing substances that differ slightly from controlled substances in their chemical structure while retaining their pharmacological effects. These substances are commonly known as designer drugs and fall under several drug categories.

Negative effects include unpredictable physical and psychological reactions due to unknown ingredients, increased heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature, and anxiety, agitation and paranoia. Use of these drugs carries significant health risks due to inconsistent potency and rapidly changing chemical composition.

Drugs of Concern (Dextromethorphan [DMX], Kratom, Salvia Divinorum, Tianeptine)

Even though some substances are not currently controlled by the federal Controlled Substances Act, they pose risks to individuals who use them. The Drug Enforcement Administration lists dextromethorphan (DXM), Kratom, Salvia Divinorum and Tianeptine as drugs of concern.

Negative effects include hallucinations, opioid-like dependence, increasing risks of misuse, toxicity and withdrawal, impaired cognition, respiratory depression and cardiovascular complications. Long-term use of these substances can lead to significant physical and psychological harm.

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Program Inventory: Prevention and Education

Given the potential detrimental impact of the misuse of substances on individuals, the University places significant emphasis on prevention programs and teaching basic behavioral skills. The University also focuses on increasing awareness of high-risk behaviors and aims to shift social norms by correcting misperceptions about substance use and safety risks among students.

Below is a listing of relevant prevention and education initiatives. The first line contains the title of the initiative and the second is the department or unit that houses the program.

Academic Course: Leadership for New Student Transition

Longhorn Orientation

Orientation Advisors must complete Leadership for New Student Transition, a three-credit-hour, upper-division elective course. The course teaches leadership competencies and provides facilitation training for peer-to-peer discussions with incoming students. Topics include difficult conversations, course advising, campus and community resources, and University policies. This information is coupled with education on University services and resources to provide peer support to incoming students during required summer orientation programs.

Alcohol Safety Bulletin Board

University Housing and Dining

As part of the residential engagement model for student learning in the residence halls, Resident Assistants create bulletin boards on making responsible decisions. Information includes safe alcohol use, as well as consent, interpersonal violence, safety policies on campus and traveling campus at night.

Athletics Exit Interviews

Texas Athletics

Texas Athletics administration conducts exit interviews of student-athletes. The exit interviews pertain to athletics, academics and social experiences at UT Austin. Information gathered allows Texas Athletics staff to remain current with alcohol and substance misuse issues and trends and to develop educational programs and interventions as needed.

Athletics Risk Management and Compliance Services

Texas Athletics

Texas Athletics Risk Management and Compliance Services staff conduct regular educational meetings with all student-athletes that include institutional and National Collegiate Athletic Association drug testing requirements, as well as the implications for positive tests, and hazing laws and University policies that prohibit hazing. Other methods of timely and relevant education (e.g., text or email reminders) are also provided throughout the academic year.

Athletics Sports Medicine

Texas Athletics

Texas Athletics Sports Medicine staff members conduct regular educational meetings with all student-athletes regarding alcohol and substance misuse. These sessions include reviews of institutional and National Collegiate Athletic Association drug testing policies and procedures, as well as the implications for positive tests. Other methods of timely education (e.g., pamphlets in common areas, electronic communications, etc.) are also provided throughout the year.

Additionally, Texas Athletics educational initiatives support harm reduction and substance use prevention. Departmental sports medicine personnel and nutritionists reinforce the need to check with staff on nutritional supplementation and food products before use.

Random and concerned intervention drug testing is administered both as a means of deterrence and early identification. Individualized treatment is provided to any student who has a positive drug test for a banned substance. The Safe Harbor program serves as a means in which students who self-identify with substance use/misuse are assessed and provided treatment with no threat of disciplinary action.

BeVOCAL: The Bystander Intervention Initiative of The University of Texas at Austin
Longhorn Wellness Center

BeVOCAL is a University-wide initiative in the Longhorn Wellness Center that is designed to improve confidence to intervene when any type of harm is witnessed. BeVOCAL seeks to promote intervention as a norm within the campus community, and in turn change the campus culture. BeVOCAL offers introductory trainings on bystander intervention as well as custom trainings based on topic (such as substance use), or area need.

Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) Program
Longhorn Wellness Center

Listed on the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Policies, the BASICS program helps students examine their alcohol use and develop personalized strategies to reduce alcohol-related risks that can negatively affect their well-being and academic success. Through a nonjudgmental, student-centered approach, participants reflect on their relationship with alcohol and set goals that align with their personal choices and values.

BASICS consists of two one-hour sessions. The first session is a small group meeting (five or fewer students) that provides alcohol education and explores beliefs, perceptions and motivations related to drinking. Afterward, students complete a brief survey about their alcohol use, experiences and protective behaviors.

The second session is a private meeting with a facilitator to review a personalized feedback report. Students compare their drinking patterns with campus norms, explore their relationship with alcohol and discuss strategies to reduce risk. Facilitators use motivational interviewing techniques throughout both sessions to support students in making informed decisions about alcohol use.

Bruce the Bat
Longhorn Wellness Center

Bruce the Bat is an evidence-based prevention health messaging campaign that aims to reduce high-risk drinking among the UT Austin student population using social norms theory. Bruce the Bat, the mascot for the program, dispels myths about how often and how much UT Austin students drink. The mascot also provides tips on how students who choose to drink can reduce their risk and offers information to students on alcohol-free activities and events in Austin. The campaign utilizes data from the UCelebrate Survey, an instrument offered through the National Social Norms Center to assess student perceptions and behaviors around alcohol use.

Campus Partner Pop-Up
University Housing and Dining

University Housing and Dining hosts campus partners periodically to do "pop up" events in the residence halls. Some campus partners for this initiative include Longhorn Wellness Center and SHIFT. While substance use was not the sole focus of the pop-ups, information pertaining to substance use was shared as part of wellness resources and strategies.

Cannabis Screening & Intervention for College Students (CASICS) Program
Longhorn Wellness Center

CASICS is a harm-reduction program that helps students examine their cannabis use and develop personalized strategies to reduce potential risks and negative consequences. Using a nonjudgmental, student-centered approach, participants reflect on their relationship with cannabis and set goals that align with their personal choices and values.

The program consists of two one-hour sessions. The first is a small-group session (five or fewer students) that explores beliefs, perceptions and motivations related to cannabis use. Afterward, students complete a brief survey about their cannabis and alcohol use, campus perceptions, experiences and protective behaviors.

The second session is a private meeting with a facilitator to review the student's survey results. Students compare their cannabis and/or alcohol use with campus norms, explore their relationship with cannabis

and discuss strategies to reduce risk. Facilitators use motivational interviewing techniques throughout both sessions to support students in making informed decisions about cannabis and alcohol use.

Community Outreach Program
Sorority and Fraternity Life

The Community Outreach Program provides support and education to families, incoming students, alumni and community members. Educational workshops focus on reviewing the recruitment processes of our Sorority and Fraternity Life councils as well as raising awareness and shifting the culture of hazing in sororities and fraternities with stakeholders before they arrive at the University. These virtual sessions are offered two times in the summer.

Educational Workshops
Longhorn Wellness Center

Health promotion professionals are available to provide free workshops and trainings related to substance use to academic classes, professional colleagues and student groups. They also provide workshops on topics such as mental health, violence prevention, bystander intervention and other issues that intersect closely with substance use.

Family Orientation Program
Texas Parents

All incoming families are invited to participate in the Family Orientation program. This program includes multiple sessions on campus safety for families to choose from including the UT Police Department.

Game Day Social Experience Focus Groups
SHIFT

This project explores how students experience the game day social experience, with a focus on how environmental conditions, social norms and institutional systems influence student safety and substance use behaviors. Beginning in 2023, SHIFT hosted a series of student focus groups to better understand student experiences, perceptions and social norms related to gameday culture including potential risks students may experience before, during and after games. These focus groups have continued annually from 2023 through 2026, providing valuable student insights that help inform SHIFT's programming and prevention efforts. Findings from this project will be used to guide future programming, outreach and resource development to better support student well-being within the context of the gameday social environment.

HealthyhornsTXT
Longhorn Wellness Center

HealthyhornsTXT supports the health and academic success of UT Austin students with text messages crafted by health education experts. Subscribers receive helpful text messages about campus resources and events, physical activity and nutrition, sleep, stress management and mental health, substance use risk reduction and other general health tips.

Horns Against Hazing
Prevention and Risk Education

Horns Against Hazing was created to educate a broad audience of student organization leaders who do not have access to hazing prevention programming. The events explore what hazing is, the effects of hazing and encourages students to cultivate healthier organizational practices. Through an engaging workshop series, students are equipped with short-term and long-term solutions that members can use to address culture change and create healthier organizational environments.

Longhorn Wellness Peer Educator Program
Longhorn Wellness Center

Peer educators help their peers learn to make responsible choices about their health, including the use of substances. Peer educators in the program can gain up to five hours of upper-division elective academic credit and complete at least 60 community service hours over three semesters. The program is open to all undergraduate students, and students must commit to three academic semesters. Peer educators receive training about basic knowledge, bystander intervention strategies and campus policies and resources that pertain to substance use. Residence halls, academic classes, Greek-letter organizations,

or any other student group or organization can request and receive free peer educator-led workshops on various topics related to the use of substances. Peer educators also contribute to the development of campus-wide prevention initiatives through a three-semester long mentored group project with a Longhorn Wellness Center or SHIFT staff member.

National Hazing Prevention Week

Prevention and Risk Education

National Hazing Prevention Week is an annual fall event series that promotes hazing awareness, community-building opportunities and resources that promote positive organizational culture. Events vary each year and include programming such as social media campaigns, hazing prevention workshops for students and organization leaders, and signature campus events to increase awareness. Collaborative community-bonding initiatives with campus resource offices provide support and reporting options. This week is part of the unit's broader commitment in supporting students with skills to recognize, choose and act to prevent hazing.

In Fall 2024, Prevention and Risk Education partnered with BeVOCAL Bystander Intervention and Texas Athletics for an on-campus kickoff tabling event, engaging students in interactive activities that tested their hazing knowledge, while providing tools and strategies to recognize, choose to respond and take action against hazing. In Fall 2025, the office partnered with SHIFT on the Happier Happy Hour event, connecting students with unit program offerings and reporting options, while highlighting the intersection of hazing prevention and substance use. Additionally, they collaborated with Recreational Sports to host a community-bonding Pilates event, providing students with opportunities to build connections and promote well-being amongst their peers.

New Student Orientation Campus Safety Canvas Modules

Longhorn Orientation

All incoming students are required to complete various online modules before their new student orientation. One of the modules is focused on campus safety and covers campus safety resources, safety notifications, health and wellness resources, suicide prevention and student-led programs. Prior to and at the conclusion of orientation, students can view web-based and mobile guide app resources with campus, community and nationwide contact information.

Operation Naloxone

SHIFT, College of Pharmacy (PhARM Program)

Operation Naloxone (ON) is a partnership between SHIFT and the College of Pharmacy that aims to empower and educate the UT Austin community to prevent opioid overdoses through naloxone access, distribution and education. ON was established in 2016 through the College of Pharmacy and the School of Social Work. SHIFT began to oversee this project in the spring of 2023. ON continues to expand the important work of access, distribution and educational outreach to the UT Austin community. Between 2024-2026, ON has expanded naloxone access on campus to include 37 emergency access sites, nine of which are open distribution sites, where students, staff and faculty can access free naloxone.

Recovery 101 Training

Center for Students in Recovery

The Recovery 101 Training was developed by the Center for Students in Recovery as another way to support students in recovery on the UT Austin campus. This training started its pilot phase in fall 2018 with the goal to help equip students, faculty and staff with additional skills to interact with students in recovery or with a substance use disorder. Upon completion of the Recovery 101 Training, a participant will be able to:

- Describe the science of substance use disorders and recovery,
- Demonstrate how to have a conversation with a person who seems to be struggling with substance use,
- Demonstrate how to effectively express support for a student in recovery, and
- Describe on- and off-campus resources for substance use disorder help or recovery support.

Other objectives of this training are to reduce stigma toward people with substance use disorders or in recovery, and to increase awareness about the millions of individuals living in healthy recovery across the country.

Required Health and Well-Being Modules
Longhorn Wellness Center
Required Health and Well-Being Modules are a series of online trainings that all incoming first-year and transfer students must complete. The modules include the Mental Health and Well-Being Course, AlcoholEdu and RespectEdu. The modules cover topics related to mental health and well-being, substance use, consent, healthy relationships and sexual violence prevention. Together, they help students develop skills to support their own well-being, make informed decisions and contribute to a healthy and safe campus community.

Residence Life Educational Programming
University Housing and Dining
Through a residential engagement model, the Residence Life staff help students learn a variety of life skills, such as “make responsible decisions.” Through this learning goal and in partnership with University offices who specialize in alcohol and drug educational programming, Residence Life staff host programs and supply the residents with information to raise awareness of the effects of drug and alcohol use.

Risk Management Summit
Sorority and Fraternity Life
Risk Management Summit is a half-day conference style summit designed to educate sorority and fraternity chapter and council leadership on the basics of risk management. The Summit aims to educate leaders and members on planning safe social events. Topics also include addressing safety issues, learning from campus partners about resources around interpersonal violence, substance use, mental health support and fostering a safer community.

Safety Education Program
Prevention and Risk Education
In order to continue to create a safer UT Austin community, and in accordance with *Texas Education Code*, Section 51.9361, the Student Organizations unit provides the Safety Education Program for over 1,000 student organizations. The program connects student organizations to risk management, prevention and emergency resources. To complete the program, the organization’s president or primary contact attends an in-person leadership workshop, and then provides an educational presentation to their entire organizational membership.

Information regarding substance use is covered in both the leadership workshop and organization training, specifically covering campus statistics, applicable policies, harm reduction strategies, and emergency and campus resources. Registered and sponsored student organizations are required to complete the Safety Education Program annually. All training materials and procedures have been developed and are updated annually by the staff.

SHIFT Makers
SHIFT
The SHIFT Makers are a team of UT Austin students who foster community and conversation while serving delicious zero-proof cocktails at student and staff events across campus. SHIFT Makers are trained in mixology, customer service and leadership. By providing high-quality drinks and customer service, SHIFT Makers challenge the norms that alcohol is necessary for socializing. They also promote awareness of healthier choices and contribute to a campus culture where all attendees can participate without the pressure or expectation to consume alcohol.

Sorority and Fraternity New Member Programming
Sorority and Fraternity Life
New Member Educator Training educates and supports the chapter officers in charge of welcoming new members into their organizations. The training addresses the role of the new member educator, community building, leadership development, developing safe environments and campus resources. Each fall, Sorority and Fraternity Life requires at least one new member educator of sororities and fraternities affiliated with Sorority and Fraternity Life to participate. The training is completed on Canvas through a series of modules.

Student Organization Event Planning Consultation Protocol and Event Planning Guide

Student Organizations
The Student Organization Event Planning Consultation Protocol is required for all general-purpose classroom and outdoor space reservation requests at least 14 days before the event date. During event consultations, Student Organizations staff review any additional steps required by the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and other relevant University policies for the proposed event. The Student Organization Event Planning Guide serves as a tool for Student Organizations staff, enabling them to more effectively advise student organizations regarding risk management and university policies. The guide prompts conversation on several safety topics, including fire, alcohol and food safety, and provides references for further explanation of these topics.

Substance Use Safety Committee
SHIFT
The Substance Use Safety Committee brings together UT Austin students, faculty, staff and community partners to support initiatives promoting safer substance use and well-being across the campus community. Through programming and strategic planning, the committee fosters inclusive community dialogue and addresses emerging campus needs related to substance misuse.

Volunteer and Advisor Training Initiatives
Sorority and Fraternity Life
The Sorority and Fraternity Volunteer Institute and Facility Partners Meetings serve as informational events and training opportunities for sorority and fraternity advisors, housing directors and other community volunteers. These events update volunteers with pertinent Sorority and Fraternity Life community information and connects them with relevant UT Austin resources. Topics address issues of alcohol, hazing and reporting of incidents and allow staff to discuss policy, practices and resources to create a healthier and safer sorority and fraternity community.

West Fest Ready
SHIFT, Longhorn Wellness Center, Sorority and Fraternity Life, Interfraternity Council
West Fest is a weekend when many parties, social events and concerts are held off campus at Interfraternity Council (IFC) facilities. The Longhorn Wellness Center (LWC), SHIFT, Sorority and Fraternity Life (SFL) and leadership from the IFC and University Panhellenic Council (UPC) partner; they reinforce protective strategies important to group outings and extended periods where substance use may be present.

IFC, SFL, SHIFT and the LWC partner each year to strategize ways to integrate harm reduction strategies, like offering water and food during these events, into existing efforts.

Building upon the West Fest Ready workshops implemented in 2023 and 2024, the program was redesigned in 2025 as a half-day leadership intensive for representatives from IFC chapters hosting events. The intensive utilized chapter specific survey data collected from IFC members to examine event related risks. Participants reviewed data unique to their organizations and developed education, prevention, and risk-reduction strategies to share with their members in advance of West Fest.

In 2026, this approach was refined by transitioning from a group intensive model to individualized consultations with members of leadership from each chapter hosting a West Fest event. This change recognized that chapter size, culture, event structure and previous incidents contributed to unique risk profiles across chapters. During these meetings, SHIFT, LWC, SFL and IFC leadership reviewed chapter specific risk data from the previous year; they then facilitated structured discussions designed to help chapter leaders evaluate potential risks associated with their events. Chapters were guided in identifying tailored strategies to address those risks, strengthen safety planning, and promote responsible decision making among members and guests.

Program Inventory: Intervention

Strong, effective interventions are included in the University's comprehensive approach to substance use. These programs and services facilitate early detection and reduction of potential harm from substance use. Following is a listing of intervention services:

Center for Students in Recovery
The Center for Students in Recovery provides a supportive community where students in recovery and in hope of recovery can achieve academic success while enjoying a genuine college experience free from substances. The unit offers ongoing support, a community of peers in recovery and a dedicated space for students in recovery or seeking recovery. Participation is free and voluntary. The unit provides ongoing programs that support recovery, such as sober social activities, recovery meetings, service and volunteer opportunities on campus and in the community, scholarships, peer and professional support and academic advocacy.

The Center for Students in Recovery aims to enrich students' recovery from substance use disorder through peer support, sober social activities that cultivate a sense of belonging and leadership and service opportunities. Students who are in recovery, as well as those interested in experiencing, exploring or understanding recovery, interested in a substance free lifestyle due to mental health recovery, those sober due to a family or friend's history of addiction and sober recovery allies are all welcome.

For more than 20 years, the Center for Students in Recovery has served as a national model for collegiate recovery. The unit collaborates across the substance use continuum of care on our campus, to serve as a leader in shifting the campus culture to one that embraces, respects and cultivates recovery as a model of wellness.

Substance Use Support Team
Counseling and Mental Health Center
The Substance Use Support Team provides individual and group clinical services. This is a program for students who have questions about their own or someone else's substance use. This counseling program is a multidisciplinary team of professionals who are dedicated to supporting students' physical and emotional well-being. Team members meet with students who are just beginning to explore making changes in their use, who are ready to start making changes or who are wanting to continue with changes they have already made.

A primary purpose of the program is to provide a comprehensive assessment and give students open and honest feedback on their use. Students speak privately and confidentially with a licensed counselor specializing in substance use about their own or someone else's use of substances. Support is also available for students interested in reducing or quitting tobacco and nicotine use. Sessions are conducted in a caring, non-judgmental atmosphere. No referral is required, and follow-up sessions are available.

Program Inventory: Treatment and Recovery

The University offers services to support treatment and recovery from substance use. Programs and services have received state and national recognition and serve as a model for other institutions.

Center for Students in Recovery

The Center for Students in Recovery is recovery-focused and aims to strengthen and enrich students' recovery from addiction to substances through peer support, recovery meetings, sober social activities, a recovery Living Learning Community, and service and volunteer opportunities.

Students who are in recovery as well as those interested in experiencing, exploring and understanding recovery are welcome. The Center is not a treatment facility and does not offer clinical services. Students can be connected to recovery-related resources off campus including sober living, additional community support groups, and inpatient or outpatient treatment. Participation in Center events and recovery supportive activities is free and available to students at any point in their recovery journey.

Program Inventory: Resources

In its comprehensive approach to promoting a drug-free community, the University has additional substance use related resources embedded within larger initiatives. While not focused exclusively on substance use/misuse, these resources are available for those with substance use concerns. The following is a list of broader resources:

Austin Vet Center Counseling and Referral Support

Veteran and Military Affiliated Services

Veteran and Military Affiliated Services has a memorandum of understanding with Austin Vet Center Counseling and Referral Support to provide the following resources:

- Counseling for adjustment, stress, anger, depression, sleep problems, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance dependence issues
- Referral to U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, University and community mental health and recovery services
- Referral to and working with Disability and Access to request academic accommodations
- Support with University processes regarding academic actions and/or conduct issues
- Assistance with enrollment and care at local U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs healthcare facilities
- Assistance obtaining resources from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and its affiliates

They also provide the following resources for faculty and staff:

- Education about veteran- and military-specific issues
- Training in military and veteran culture
- Consultation on veteran-specific issues that impact performance and retention

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

BCAL is a resource available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is a partnership between Student Outreach and Support, Counseling and Mental Health Center, Employee Assistance Program and UT Police Department. The purpose of BCAL is to provide support, advice and referrals to students, faculty and staff with concerns regarding another campus member's behavior. As a preventive measure, BCAL has been used to intervene during student, faculty and staff critical incidents. An individual can either call the line or report their concerns using the online submission form. These concerns can be addressed through information, consultation, resources and, if needed, intervention.

Counseling and Mental Health Center Crisis Line

The Counseling and Mental Health Center Crisis Line is a confidential service that offers an opportunity for UT Austin students to talk with trained counselors about urgent concerns. A counselor is available every day of the year, including holidays. Students can call 512-471-2255 at any time to discuss their concerns, receive their support and guidance, and learn about available resources and next steps.

Counseling and Mental Health Center Walk-In Crisis Services

Often issues related to substance use result in the need for mental health care that is timely and available without a prior appointment. Each day the center is open, a team of clinicians is available for students who require crisis and same-day appointments. All care is coordinated with both inpatient and outpatient treatment recommendations.

Counseling and Mental Health Center's TimelyCare

The center partners with TimelyCare, a free virtual mental health and well-being platform for currently enrolled UT Austin students. TimelyCare providers offer support in over 240 languages. Students can seek support for issues related to substance use through TimelyCare's scheduled counseling services.

HealthPoint Employee Assistance Program

Human Resources

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at UT Austin serves to support the mental, emotional and physical well- being of faculty and staff, and to promote the organizational health and effectiveness of

the University community. The program provides free short-term, confidential counseling consultations and referral services, with an experienced staff of social workers, to benefits-eligible individuals. In these sessions, counselors assess needs and develop a plan with the individual for addressing those needs. EAP staff provide educational programs focused on health and well-being, which provide assistance in reducing high-risk behaviors and creating alternative healthy habits. Staff also provide manager consultations and training that provide guidance to managers dealing with employees who may be distressed or disruptive in the workplace. This training focuses on teaching managers how to communicate about resources to distressed employees and set limits with employees whose behaviors are disruptive.

Student Emergency Fund

Student Outreach and Support

Student Outreach and Support facilitates the Student Emergency Fund. The fund exists to provide financial support when a verified emergency has impacted a student's health, safety or well-being.

Program Inventory: Research

Research into the chemical and genetic causes of substance use disorders is shifting the view of alcohol and drug dependence away from a strictly moral or social problem. With its strength in neuroscience and recent initiatives in molecular biology, the University has become a national leader in this field through a wide range of academic approaches.

Addiction Research Institute (ARI)

The ARI, housed in the School of Social Work, inspires real-world social impact and reduces the negative consequences of addiction and substance use on individuals, families and communities. The mission of ARI is to generate system change, along the addiction recovery continuum, through innovative research, education and training, advocacy and partnerships. It conducts rigorous, transdisciplinary and translational research that facilitates the transfer of new and innovative scientific strategies to support prevention, treatment and recovery efforts.

American College Health Association National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA)

The ACHA-NCHA is a nationally recognized research survey that can assist colleges and universities in collecting precise data about their students' health habits, behaviors and perceptions. The ACHA-NCHA covers topics relevant to college student health, including alcohol and other substances. The survey was last implemented in Fall 2023.

Health Behavior Research and Training Institute (HBRT)

The HBRT develops, tests and implements behavioral interventions. Their evidence-based interventions target health behaviors such as alcohol and other substance use, diet and exercise, smoking and vaccine uptake. Funded by agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HBRT provides training to health professionals, including social workers, physicians, nurses, medical students and other clinical providers.

National Social Norms Center- UCelebrate! Survey

Longhorn Wellness Center

The Longhorn Wellness Center works with the National Social Norms Center at Michigan State University to administer the annual UCelebrate! survey, which is distributed to a random sample of 4,000 UT Austin undergraduates every other spring. Data from the UCelebrate! survey provides the foundation for the Bruce the Bat social norms campaign and also informs other substance misuse prevention efforts on campus. This survey was last administered in Spring 2025.

Opioid Response Network (ORN)

The ARI is a partner in the ORN through its role as the South Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funds the State Opioid Response – Technical Assistance grant to the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry in collaboration with the Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC), Columbia University Division on Substance Use Disorders and a large national coalition. The ORN focuses on providing free resources and training around the prevention, treatment, and/or recovery of opioid and stimulant use. Anyone needing assistance in these areas can submit a request via the ORN website.

South Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center (SSW ATTC)

The SSW ATTC is located in the ARI at the School of Social Work. The center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to help people and organizations implement effective practices for substance use disorder treatment and recovery services. In addition, SSW ATTC works with higher education institutions to support incorporation of evidence-based practices into addictions curricula. The center serves Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and American Indian Tribes and Communities (Health & Human Services Region 6).

StopHazing – Campus Hazing Survey
Prevention and Risk Education

StopHazing is a national leader in hazing research and data-driven strategies to support safe and welcoming schools. StopHazing also administers a Campus Hazing Survey which has been distributed to a random sampling of 10,000 UT Austin undergraduate students in 2018, 2022 and 2026. The data from the survey helps inform overall hazing prevention efforts for the institution, including interventions specifically for the use of substances in hazing behaviors and organizational culture.

Texas Connecting Overdose Prevention Efforts (TxCOPE)

TxCOPE was created by community members for the community. Local first responders and substance use disorder providers were pivotal in questioning how we can change the system of overdose surveillance and created TxCOPE. By using the app on your online and mobile devices, providers can report where, when and how an overdose occurred. TxCOPE then uses that data to track where overdoses are occurring most, as well as the frequency of certain drugs. In turn, they create community-specific targeted plans of action so overdose prevention agencies can set up response efforts in those areas.

The Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health (TIEMH)

TIEMH conducts independent, sponsored research to advance the mental health field. Researchers at the institute use a variety of research designs and methods to learn about mental health practices and service systems. The institute conducts rigorous evaluations of behavioral health programs within the state, emphasizing evaluation data to monitor progress and enhance quality through continuous feedback. Researchers use participatory research practices to partner with community and state stakeholders to ensure research or evaluation findings are meaningful and useful to those participating in the research endeavor.

Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research

The Waggoner Center aims to provide a better understanding of alcoholism and substance use disorder, and to discover new therapies and treatments. The Waggoner Center faculty are comprised of a multidisciplinary team of scientists that study the biology of substance use disorders across a variety of levels and approaches, from genetic and molecular to clinical and public health. This integrated, synergistic approach creates the opportunity for collective progress not possible in any one laboratory and accelerates the potential development of new therapies and treatments for these devastating disorders.

In February 2022, the National Institutes of Health awarded a five-year renewal of the Integrative Neuroscience Initiative on Alcoholism–Neuroimmune (INIA-N). INIA-N is a multidisciplinary initiative funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism that investigates how excessive alcohol consumption drives genomic, cellular and behavioral neuroadaptations, particularly in immune-related pathways. It supports a consortium of 10 research components working to identify gene networks and therapeutic targets to better understand and treat alcohol use disorder. The administrative headquarters and three of the 10 research projects in this international consortium are based at the Waggoner Center.

Progress in alcohol and addiction research requires better education and focused training of future scientists. To support this, the University has designated endowment funds to train graduate students in addiction science. Additionally, the Waggoner Center has established a fellowship using endowment funds to support postdoctoral fellows training in this field.

Policy Inventory and Enforcement Procedures

Federal and state laws and The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System require the University to develop policies and enforce sanctions related to the misuse of substances. These policies and sanctions are only one aspect of the University's initiative to develop a campus community in which alcohol and drugs do not impede the educational mission of the institution.

The University consistently enforces disciplinary sanctions for violations of standards of conduct related to alcohol and drug use. Following is a listing of relevant regulatory programs and program policies:

Policy Inventory

Council Policies Related to Risk Reduction

Sorority and Fraternity Life

Governing councils for the sorority and fraternity community hold their members accountable in many ways. The Interfraternity Council adopted a substance-free recruitment policy for all fraternity's part of their council. The policy explains that no alcohol is to be used or present during any recruitment function, whether it is one-on-one or in a large group. The University Panhellenic Council adheres to the National Panhellenic Council Unanimous Agreement that prohibits alcohol involvement with any sorority recruitment function. The Latino Pan-Hellenic Council prohibits the unlawful possession, sale and/or use of any illegal drugs or controlled substance at council events or organization sponsored events. Lastly, Sorority and Fraternity Life organizations are required to submit an intent to recruit form as well as a new member reporting form which outline their obligations to maintain safe new member processes.

Institutional Drug Testing

Texas Athletics

Student-athletes are required to acknowledge and consent to institutional drug testing policies and procedures annually as a requirement of participation in intercollegiate athletics. Texas Athletics conducts a required orientation for all incoming student-athletes annually, during which content included in the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct and Expectations is reviewed. The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct and Expectations includes content regarding drug education, the drug-testing program, banned substances lists and implications for positive tests. Student-athletes also annually attest to their review and understanding of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct as a pre-participation requirement. Texas Athletics ensures compliance with policy via various monitoring systems and enforcement. Texas Athletics continuously evaluates and clarifies the current policies to ensure consistent enforcement of sanctions.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Rules

Texas Athletics

Student-athletes are required to acknowledge and consent to UT Austin and NCAA drug testing policies and procedures annually as a requirement of participation in intercollegiate athletics. In addition to any criminal penalties that may be involved, emphasis on punitive aspects of problems in this area comes from University regulations and NCAA rules. The University performs both random and concerned intervention drug tests on university student-athletes. The NCAA and various other athletic federations also perform drug testing of select University student-athletes. Student-athletes who test positive for banned substances in a University-administered drug test undergo assessment and treatment, as indicated, and are subject to other University-imposed sanctions. Student-athletes who test positive for banned substances (other than cannabis) on a NCAA-administered drug test are suspended from intercollegiate sports for one year.

Positions Requiring a Commercial Drivers' Licenses

It is the policy of UT Austin to maintain a drug and alcohol testing program for applicants and employees in positions requiring a commercial driver's license. All persons who are applicants for positions with duties or activities that involve the requirement of a commercial driver's license will be required to provide a urine sample for testing for the presence of illegal drugs (UT Austin Handbook of Operating Procedures 5-1150). A verified negative test result will be required on this controlled substance test. Pre-employment alcohol testing

is not required. Employees in positions that require a commercial driver's license may be required to submit to testing to determine the presence of illegal drugs or alcohol under certain conditions spelled out by the policy. Employees with positive tests will be removed immediately from safety-sensitive functions.

Residence Hall Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, University Housing and Dining

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity delegates disposition of residence hall violations to University Housing and Dining under Section 11-201, Appendix C, Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities. All department and University regulations concerning residence hall living are within the jurisdiction of housing staff members. Residence hall policies are outlined for students in the Residence Hall Manual, which they acknowledge when signing their housing contract. All other violations, including residence hall violations by students who do not live in University-owned housing, are referred to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. Institutional rules violations, including those that are done by students who live in University-owned housing, are referred to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Residence Hall Student Discipline – Drug-related Cases

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, University Housing and Dining

While student discipline is handled internally in University Housing and Dining, there are several types of cases that are automatically referred to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. These case types include all drug-related cases, as outlined in the Institutional Rules, and any activities that endanger the health and safety of residents. University Housing and Dining staff members assist in gathering information for these cases, where appropriate. Discipline in University Housing and Dining is based on a model of educational responsibility. Policies are written in the interest of basic standards of conduct in the community, and on resident safety and student development. Educational sanctions are applied to violations of policy to assist students in their development and recognition of their behavior's impact on the community, and to help them understand the policies and why they exist. It is not a system designed to punish residents. Sanctions are reviewed and administered through Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Safety Education Program for Student Organizations

Prevention and Risk Education

In order to continue to create a safer campus community, and in accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.9361, the Student Organizations unit provides the Safety Education Program for student organizations. The program connects student organizations to risk management, prevention and emergency resources. Registered and sponsored student organizations are required to complete the Safety Education Program annually; however, every UT Austin community member is encouraged complete the Safety Education module course.

Student Amnesty for Alcohol and Other Drugs Emergencies

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, Longhorn Wellness Center

Student Amnesty for Alcohol and Other Drugs Emergencies applies to current UT Austin students and allows them to avoid formal University disciplinary action or the creation of a formal disciplinary record when they call 911 for help with an alcohol or drug medical emergency. Student Amnesty for Alcohol Emergencies applies in the case of the following: possession of alcohol by a minor, unauthorized possession or use of alcohol on campus, consumption of alcohol by a minor, and intoxication as a result of using alcohol. Amnesty may be granted to the UT Austin student(s) calling for help, as well as the student who is experiencing the medical emergency. Student Conduct and Academic Integrity deems students appropriate for amnesty when they are referred for alcohol or drug-related incidents. There are limitations to this program and inclusion in the program is not automatic.

Student Conduct Process

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity routinely receives reports of alleged violations of University rules from campus offices (e.g., UT Police Department, University Housing and Dining, Parking and Transportation Services, Enterprise Technology, etc.), as well as individual faculty members and students. In response to such a report, the unit generally schedules a meeting with the student to discuss the suspected violation(s). Assessed sanctions vary with the circumstances, including the nature of the violation(s). Sanctions can include, but are not limited to, the following: written warning, disciplinary probation, alcohol and other drugs education programs, suspension of rights/privileges, restitution,

community service, counseling, grade-related sanctions (only in cases of academic dishonesty), bar against readmission, deferred suspension, suspension or expulsion.

The Student Organization Event Planning Consultation Protocol and Event Planning Guide

Student Organizations

The Student Organization Event Planning Consultation Protocol is required for all general-purpose classroom and outdoor space reservation requests at least 14 days before the event date. During event consultations, Student Organizations staff review any additional steps required by the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and other relevant event related University policies for the proposed event.

The Student Organization Event Planning Guide serves as a tool for Student Organizations staff, enabling them to more effectively advise student organizations regarding risk management and University policies. The guide prompts conversation on several safety topics, including fire, alcohol and food safety, and provides references for further explanation of these topics.

University Unions Social Events

Registered Student Organizations may not serve alcohol at their events.

Enforcement Procedures University Standards of Conduct

Chapter 11. Student Discipline and Conduct of the Institutional Rules indicates that the Dean of Students may initiate disciplinary proceedings under *Subchapter 11-402* against a student who, among other items, (1) engages in conduct that violates any provision of federal, state or local law, whether or not the violation occurs on University property or in connection with any University-oriented activity; (2) engages in unauthorized use or possession of alcoholic beverages in a University classroom building, laboratory, auditorium, library, museum, faculty or administrative office, intercollegiate or intramural athletic facility, residence hall or any other campus area (see *Regents' Rules and Regulations, Rule 80102* for more information); or engages in the improper use, possession, sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages, including but not limited to underage possession of alcohol, underage consumption of alcohol, providing alcohol to a minor, public intoxication, minor driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while intoxicated; or (3) engages in illegal use, possession, or sale of a drug or narcotic or possession of drug paraphernalia. The UT Police Department enforces both Texas underage drinking laws as well as both state and federal drug laws.

In the case of University employees, bringing intoxicants or drugs onto university premises, using intoxicants or drugs, having intoxicants or drugs in one's possession or being under the influence of intoxicants or drugs at any time while on University premises constitutes misconduct under Section 5-2420 of the University's Handbook of Operating Procedures. The unlawful use, possession or distribution of drugs or alcohol by an employee is prohibited by the *University of Texas System's Drug and Alcohol Policy*. In addition, employees of UT Austin are subject to *HOP 8-1030* of the Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Handbook of Operating Procedures Policy 5-1140 requires all employees to report any arrests and criminal convictions to the University within five business days. This includes being convicted of a criminal drug statute that occurred in the workplace. If a drug violation occurs in the workplace, the appropriate federal agency will be notified.

Handbook of Operating Procedures Policy 5-1150 requires drug and alcohol testing for positions requiring a commercial driver's license. All applicants who have been conditionally accepted for employment in positions that involve duties or activities that involve the requirement of a commercial driver's license will be required to test for the presence of illegal drugs and a verified negative test result will be required. The use of alcohol four hours before or while on duty, concentrations of alcohol 0.04 or greater in system while requiring performance of safety sensitive functions or use during the eight hours following an accident are prohibited. Use or possession or testing positive for a controlled substance while holding a position requiring the performance of safety sensitive functions is prohibited. This policy outlines procedures for testing and discipline if an employee violates the policy.

Rule 50101, Section 2.1 of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas

System provides that all students are expected and required to obey federal, state and local laws; to comply with the Regents' Rules and Regulations, with The University of Texas System ("UT System") and institutional rules and regulations, and directives issued by administrative officials of UT System or UT System institution in the course of their authorized duties; and to observe standards of conduct appropriate for an academic institution. A student's failure to do so may result in disciplinary action instituted against the student, regardless of whether such conduct occurs on- or off-campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Rule 50101, Section 2.2 of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System provides that each institution shall adopt rules and regulations concerning student conduct and discipline. Such rules shall be in accordance with a model policy developed by the Office of General Counsel that complies with state and federal law, Regents' Rules and UT System policies. Institutional rules shall become effective upon review and approval by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, as appropriate, and by the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel. Each student is deemed to have notice of the provisions of the Regents' Rules and Regulations and institutional policies.

Sanctions under University Rules and Regulations

Students

Students caught or suspected of possessing, using and/or distributing drugs prohibited by state, federal or local law will be subject to University discipline, including imposition of a written warning, disciplinary probation, suspension, financial responsibility for damage to or misappropriation of University property, educational sanctions including permanent expulsion and such other sanctions deemed appropriate.

Employees

The unlawful use, possession and/or distribution of drugs or alcohol, or engaging in conduct prohibited by University policy regarding the manufacture, sale, possession, distribution or use of alcohol or illegal drugs will result in disciplinary probation, demotion, suspension without pay or termination.

Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities, Chapter 6

Subchapter 6–404. Prohibited Conduct of Student Organizations

7. Alcohol Misconduct – engages in unauthorized use or possession, sale, distribution, or consumption of alcoholic beverages on or in University property, including but not limited to a classroom, laboratory, auditorium, office, athletic facility or residence hall; or engages in the improper use, possession, sale, distribution or consumption of alcoholic beverages, including but not limited to underage possession of alcohol, underage consumption of alcohol, providing alcohol to a minor, public intoxication, minor driving under the influence of alcohol or driving while intoxicated.
8. Drugs – engages in the unauthorized use or possession of a drug, or possession of drug paraphernalia; or engages in unauthorized sale or distribution of a drug.

Penalties under State of Texas Law

Manufacture or Delivery of Controlled Substances (Drugs). The minimum penalty is confinement in jail for a term of not more than two years or less than 180 days, and a fine not to exceed $10,000. The maximum penalty is confinement in Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) for life or for a term of not more than 99 years nor less than fifteen years, and a fine not to exceed $500,000.

Possession of Controlled Substances (Drugs). Texas law prohibits the unlawful possession of controlled substances. Penalties may include fines and imprisonment, with the most serious offenses punishable by a fine of up to $50,000 and imprisonment for life or a term of 5 to 99 years (Ch. 481. Texas Controlled Substances Act).

Delivery of Marijuana. The minimum penalty is confinement in jail for a term of not more than 180 days, a fine not to exceed $2,000, or both. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for life or for a term of not more than 99 nor less than ten years, and a fine not to exceed $100,000.

Possession of Marijuana. The minimum penalty is confinement in jail for a term of not more than 180 days, a fine not to exceed $2,000, or both. The maximum penalty is confinement in TDC for life or for a term of not more than 99 nor less than five years, and a fine not to exceed $50,000.

Driving While Intoxicated (includes intoxication from alcohol, drugs, or both). The minimum penalty is confinement in jail for a term of not more than 180 days nor less than 72 hours, and a fine of not more than $2,000. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for a term of not more than 10 years nor less than two years, and a fine not to exceed $10,000.

Public Intoxication. The minimum penalty is a fine not to exceed $500. The maximum penalty varies with age and number of offenses not to exceed 180 days in jail and a $2,000 fine.

Purchase of Alcohol by a Minor. The minimum penalty is a fine not to exceed $500. The maximum penalty varies with age and number of offenses.

Consumption or Possession of Alcohol by a Minor. The minimum penalty is a fine not to exceed $500. The maximum penalty varies with number of offenses.

Purchasing for or Furnishing of Alcohol to a Minor. The minimum penalty is a fine not to exceed $4,000 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed one year, or both. The maximum penalty is confinement in a state jail facility for a term of not less than 180 days nor more than two years, and a fine not to exceed $10,000, if the minor's consumption of the alcohol results in another person suffering serious bodily injury or death.

The penalties described above are based on applicable State of Texas statutes and are subject to change at any time by the Texas Legislature and the Governor of Texas. Please refer to the applicable State of Texas statute for additional information.

Penalties under Federal Law

Manufacture, Distribution, or Dispensing of Drugs (including marijuana). The unlawful possession and distribution of controlled substances are violations of federal law and may result in criminal penalties, including fines and imprisonment. While penalties vary depending on the offense and substance involved, certain large-scale distribution and trafficking offenses carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment (21 U.S.C §841. Prohibited acts A).

Possession of Drugs (including marijuana). Federal law prohibits the unlawful possession of controlled substances. A first conviction for simple possession may result in up to one year of imprisonment and a minimum fine of $1,000, while subsequent convictions may result in increased penalties, including up to three years of imprisonment and a minimum fine of $5,000 (21 U.S.C §844(a)).

Distribution of Drugs to a Person Under 21 Years of Age.
Federal law prohibits the distribution of controlled substances to persons under the age of 21. Penalties may include substantial fines and imprisonment, ranging from a minimum term of one year to a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, depending on the substance and circumstances of the offense (21 U.S.C. §859. Distribution to persons under age twenty-one).

The federal penalties described above are based on applicable federal statutes and are subject to change at any time by the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States. There are additional factors in the federal sentencing guidelines, including various enhancement provisions for prior offenses. Title 21 U.S.C. Section 860 provides that the federal statutory penalties double (and in some cases triple) when a controlled substance is distributed (or even possessed with intent to distribute) within 1,000 feet of a school or a public university. Please refer to the applicable federal statute for additional information.

Other Reference Information

Texas State Government Code

- Alcoholic Beverage Code: Title 4. Regulatory and Penal Provisions – Chapter 101. General Criminal Provisions
- Alcoholic Beverage Code: Title 4. Regulatory and Penal Provisions – Chapter 106. Provisions Relating to Age
- Government Code – Title 10. General Government – Subtitle C. State Accounting, Fiscal Management, and Productivity – Chapter 2113. Use of Appropriated Money – Subchapter A. General Provisions
- Health & Safety Code: Title 2. Health – Subtitle H. Public Health Provisions – Chapter 161. Public Health Provisions
- Health & Safety Code: Title 6. Food, Drugs, Alcohol, and Hazardous Substances – Subtitle C. Substance Misuse Regulation and Crimes – Chapter 481. Texas Controlled Substances Act

The Rules and Regulations of The University of Texas System Board of Regents

- Rule 30601 – Discipline and Dismissal of Classified Employees
- Rule 50101 – Student Conduct and Discipline
- Rule 80102 – Alcoholic Beverages
- Rule 80111 – Smoke Free or Tobacco Free Policies
- UTS102 – Drugs and Alcohol Policy

UT Austin Handbook of Operating Procedures

- HOP 5-2420 – Policies and Procedures for Discipline and Dismissal of Employees
- HOP 8-1030 – Manufacture, Sale, Possession, Distribution, or Use of Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities, General Information Catalog, Chapter 11. Student Discipline and Conduct

University Housing and Dining Policies

- 2025-2026 Residence Hall Manual
- Residential Education Model

34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) – Part 86 – Drug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention

- Federal Regulations
- Compliance Checklist

2025-26 NCAA Division I Manual

- Article 10 – Ethical Conduct (Bylaw 10.1 - Unethical Conduct; Bylaw 10.2 - Knowledge of Use of Banned Drugs)
- Article 12 – Amateurism and Athletics Eligibility (Bylaw 12.5.3 – Drug-Testing Consent Form)
- Article 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons (Bylaw 17.2.6.3 – Drug Testing Consent Form Requirement)
- Article 20 – Division Membership (Bylaw 20.2.4.8 - Drug Testing Program and Consent Form)
- Article 31 – Executive Regulations (Bylaw 31.2.2 – Individual Eligibility)

Alcohol and Drug Sanction Reporting

As amended in the Higher Education Opportunities Act of 2008, the 2026 Biennial Review contains a list of all documented alcohol and drug cases adjudicated at the institution. Student Conduct and Academic Integrity administers the University's student disciplinary process. The unit adopts a "risk management strategy" in dealing with alcohol and drug violations. Students found in violation of the University's rules pertaining to alcohol and drugs may be assessed a variety of sanctions; they are often referred to the Counseling and Mental Health Center and Longhorn Wellness Center as part of the disciplinary referral process.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity reports that there were a total of 108 alcohol and seven drug violations. During the 2025-2026 academic year, there were a total of 82 alcohol and 11 drug violations. The following tables illustrate the totals for alcohol and drug violations and the sanctions that were assessed. Please note that some students may have been found responsible for both alcohol and drug violations in the same incident, which would be reflected in both tables for the respective academic year.

2024-2025 Alcohol Violations = 108	
Sanction	**Total Assessed**
Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS)	96
Deferred Suspension	2
Disciplinary Probation	21
Educational Reflection Session with a Campus Partner	3
Ethical Decision-Making Seminar	2
Suspension from the University	1
Written Warning	68

2025-2026 Alcohol Violations = 82	
Sanction	**Total Assessed**
BASICS	67
Disciplinary Probation	5
Educational Reflection Session with a Campus Partner	1
General Incident Description	13
Suspension from the University	2
Written Warning	45

2024-2025 Drug Violations = 7	
Sanction	**Total Assessed**
CASICS	5
Deferred Suspension	1
Disciplinary Probation	1

Educational Reflection Session with a Campus Partner	2
Written Warning	4

2025-2026 Drug Violations = 11	
Sanction	**Total Assessed**
Additional Sanctions	1
CASICS	8
Disciplinary Probation	5
General Incident Reflection	1
Suspension from the University	2
Written Warning	1

Note: *For both the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years, some students had concurrent alcohol and drug violations or multiple alcohol and drug violations in a short period of time that were resolved together. Additionally, some students may receive a combination of sanctions (i.e., a period of suspension followed by a period of disciplinary probation). Therefore, the totals for sanctions may not match the total number of violations.*

Procedures for Providing Biennial Review to Students and Employees

A Drug-Free University

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the University publishes information regarding the University's educational programs related to drug and alcohol misuse prevention; sanctions for violations of federal, state and local laws and University policy; a description of health risks associated with alcohol and other drugs use; and a description of available treatment programs for University students and employees.

The University provides information for students and employees each fall regarding illicit drug and alcohol use, including standards of conduct, health risks, state and federal penalties, and available drug or alcohol counseling and rehabilitation services. Campus notification of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, 2026 Biennial Review Notice, will be sent to students, faculty and staff via email from Human Resources and Texas Student Experience.

The notification statement is as follows:

> Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,
>
> To further its commitment to the well-being of all members of the campus community, the University is providing you with the federally required annual notice of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act 2026 Biennial Review. This Review contains information including:
> - Descriptions of health risks associated with alcohol and drug misuse.
> - Descriptions of available support, intervention and treatment programs.
> - Standards of conduct and policies related to alcohol and drug abuse.
> - Penalties for violation of federal, state and local law, and campus policy.
>
> Faculty and staff work collaboratively across academic disciplines and administrative programs on well-being resources and programming. They include drug and alcohol abuse education and prevention, to help the campus community achieve productive and successful experiences and minimize substance misuse. Please take a moment to review this information for your own education and well-being.
>
> Human Resources
> Texas Student Experience

Programming Effectiveness

A major objective of the 2026 Biennial Review is to gather and analyze data on the effectiveness of current programs, program gaps and needed improvements. Determining program effectiveness across the campus can lead to data-informed, continuous improvements and recommendations for future programmatic efforts. This section analyzes the effectiveness of programs focused on prevention, education, intervention, treatment and recovery.

In response to recommendations identified during the previous biennial review cycle, the University increased collaboration among subject matter experts and campus partners involved in substance misuse prevention and education efforts. These partnerships have supported a more coordinated approach to addressing substance use and expanded prevention strategies rooted in harm reduction, health promotion and student well-being. A total of 26 substance misuse prevention and education programs were reported. The results are organized as follows: how programs were assessed (Table 1); reported program effectiveness (Table 2); and data highlights and planned improvements (Tables 3 and 4).

Substance Misuse Prevention and Education Programs' Assessment Methodology

The substance misuse prevention and education program effectiveness is assessed using a variety of methods. Survey respondents reported using quantitative methods (19.3%), including numeric and cumulative data collection and pre/post survey; qualitative methods (7.7%), such as interview or anecdotal data assessment; mixed methods (61.5%); and unspecified methods (11.5%). See Table 1.

Table 1: Types of Assessments (n=26)

Assessments Used	Percentage
Quantitative Methods	19.3%
Qualitative Methods	7.7%
Mixed Methods	61.5%
Methods Unspecified	11.5%

Substance Misuse Prevention and Education Programs' Effectiveness

As shown in Table 2, of the substance misuse prevention and education programs that were assessed for effectiveness, 92.3% of them were reported as either effective or very effective. Only 7.7% of the programs were reported as neither effective nor ineffective.

Table 2: Reported Program Effectiveness (n=26)

Effectiveness	Percentage
Very ineffective	0.0%
Ineffective	0.0%
Neither effective nor ineffective	7.7%
Effective	46.15%
Very effective	46.15%

Are Substance Misuse Program Improvements Needed?

Table 3 provides the respondents' views about the need for substance misuse prevention and education program improvements or changes. While 30.8% indicated that their program could be increased or expanded, 57.7% felt that their program should be continued or maintained unchanged. Finally, 11.5% were either unsure about the need for change or did not specify plans for change. Improvement plans with specific descriptions were reported in the survey and are found in Table 4.

Table 3: Program Improvement Plan (n=26)

Plans	Percentage
Continue or maintain unchanged	57.7%
Increase and expand	30.8%
Other (Uncertainty, unspecified)	11.5%

The effectiveness of the University's various substance misuse prevention and education programs are supported by the data reported in the survey. Table 4 provides the contents of the number of students, faculty and staff served, substance misuse prevention and education programs highlights, the data-supported effectiveness and their indicated plans for continuation and/or program improvement. This information was provided directly by program staff.

Table 4: Highlights of Program Effectiveness and Recommended Improvements for the 2026 Biennial Review

Program	Students/ Faculty/ Staff Served	Program Highlights	Recommended Improvement/ Improvement Plans
AlcoholEdu and Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates (SAPU) (Longhorn Wellness Center)	2024-2025: 11,076 students 2025-2026: 11,536 students	For both 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years, about 75% of students report that AlcoholEdu changed their perceptions of other students' drinking behaviors.	In fall of 2026 a new AlcoholEdu module will be rolled out through Vector Solutions, the company UT Austin contracts with to offer this core content. In addition to this change, SAPU will be replaced with RespectEdu, a new module that educates students on healthy relationships, consent and sexual assault prevention. Both these modules will continue to have survey items built in that measure students' perceptions and behaviors around these topics, along with module effectiveness.
BASICS and CASICS (Longhorn Wellness Center)	2024-2025: 85 students 2025-2026: 62 students	98.6% of students who complete BASICS "agree" (defined as: slightly agree, agree, or strongly agree) that they have a better understanding of their relationship with alcohol and how it may be affecting (or could affect) their well-being.	BASICS and CASICS programs have both seen decline in participant numbers in recent years. The Longhorn Wellness Center is reviewing this program to better understand how to improve reach and implementation, along with if these programs align with current office operations.
BeVOCAL (Longhorn Wellness Center)	2024-2025: 657 students, faculty and	One successful highlight of this program was working with Sorority and Fraternity Life, Interfraternity Council, and Title	Due to staff transitions, workshop engagement for the general BeVOCAL workshop has been lower in recent years. Moving

	staff 2025-2026: 742 students, faculty and staff	IX on a training for all incoming new Interfraternity Council members on bystander intervention, sexual assault prevention and Title IX.	forward, more emphasis will be placed on a model that provides campus partners with tools to infuse bystander intervention into their programming rather than the Longhorn Wellness Center directly leading workshops.
Bruce the Bat (Longhorn Wellness Center)	2024-2025: 1,000 students 2025-2026: 1,000 students	The Bruce the Bat program continues to share important information about social norms and safer behaviors related to substance use among students. Successful channels for the information have included social media, residence hall posters and on-campus tabling events.	Expand messaging channels and outlets, maintain student recognition of Bruce the Bat. This campaign is heavily informed by the National Social Norms Center UCelebrate Survey. The Longhorn Wellness Center is currently reviewing continued capacity to support this survey implementation, which could influence future of Bruce the Bat.
Center for Students in Recovery	2024-2025: 1,197 student walk-ins 2025-2026: 1,560 student walk-ins	The Center for Students in Recovery continues to provide a supportive community where students in recovery, as well as those seeking recovery, can achieve academic success while enjoying a genuine college experience free from alcohol and other drugs. Since relocating to the William C. Powers, Jr. Student Activity Center in 2025, we have seen an increase in total walk-in visits and have received positive feedback from students regarding the center's location and accessibility.	An area for improvement is increasing marketing and outreach efforts across campus. Expanding awareness through campus events, partnerships with student organizations, targeted communications, and enhanced visibility in high-traffic areas could help more students learn about the Center for Students in Recovery and the resources and support it provides.

Counseling and Mental Health Center's (CMHC) Substance Use Support Team (SUST)	2024-2025: 43 students 2025-2026: 49 students	We measured treatment adherence by examining the percentage of students who attended at least one additional SUST counseling appointment after completing a CMHC SUST intake appointment. AY 2024-25: Of the 43 unique clients who attended a SUST intake appointment during academic year 2024-25 and were recommended to return to CMHC for SUST-related counseling, 41 (92%) attended at least one additional SUST follow-up appointment. AY 2025-26: Of the 49 unique clients who attended a SUST intake appointment during academic year 2025-26 (to date; through July 22, 2026) and were recommended to return to CMHC for SUST-related counseling, 44 (90%) attended at least one additional SUST follow-up appointment. Examining appointment follow-through across this two-year period accounts for clients recommended to return to CMHC for SUST-related counseling who may have had an evaluation during AY 2024-25 and one or more follow-up appointments during the following AY. During this two-year period, 92 unique clients completed a SUST intake appointment and were recommended to return to CMHC for SUST-related counseling, and 85 of them (92%) had at least one additional follow-up SUST counseling appointment. When considering the barriers these students must overcome to engage in ongoing treatment, CMHC SUST counseling services are extremely effective.	Continue strengthening partnerships with units addressing substance use awareness while increasing collaborative education, prevention, and harm reduction programming to improve student awareness and access to support services.

Drug and Alcohol Related Bulletin Boards (University Housing and Dining)	2024-2025: 7,800 students* 2025-2026: 7,800 students*	The bulletin boards are a passive program thus we do not collect assessment data on those that cover specific topics.	N/A
Free Naloxone at the Desks (University Housing and Dining)	2024-2025: 7,800 students* 2025-2026: 7,800 students*	Naloxone is available at the front desk of residence halls for when there is an immediate need.	N/A
Game Day Social Experience Focus Groups (SHIFT)	2024-2025: 16 students (primarily female, first-year) 2025-2026: 23 students (primarily 50/50 male/ female, third-year)	2024-25: Conducted outreach to student organizations; Recruited two spirit groups for conversations around game day social experience. 2025-26: Recruited students via open call for participants; Conducted four focus groups to better understand game day social environments.	Use findings from focus groups to create health and safety messaging; Build network of stakeholders involved in game day decision-making; Conduct environmental scan to validate focus group findings
HealthPoint Employee Assistance Program (HR)	2024-2025: 3 staff 2025-2026: 2 staff	“"I have used EAP several times and always been pleased with the level of care provided." "Provided helpful community resources" "She gave me so many resources that helped me outside of sessions. It was a great support." "This was such a valuable service. I am forever grateful!"”	Improve our data collection. Increase program offerings for faculty and staff around AOD misuse prevention
Healthyhorns TXT (Longhorn Wellness Center)	2024-2025: 27,128 students 2025-2026: 26,343 students	The 25-26 end of year survey showed 93.4% (467, n=500) of students found HHTXT somewhat or very valuable, and 90.6% (453, n=500) of students found HHTXT somewhat or very relevant. The main reasons students indicated they like being signed up for HHTXT are entering to win the Cabo Bob’s gift card (356, n=502), receiving tips about staying healthy (243, n=502) and learning about campus resources (163, n=502).	Based on program evaluation, program improvements include promoting a wider variety of on-campus events and pairing health resources with encouragement, reminders and tips.

Horns Against Hazing (Prevention and Risk Education)	2024-2025: 248 students 2025-2026: 217 students	Attendee feedback consistently showed the value of providing fun, alcohol-free opportunities for organizations to engage in meaningful conversations surrounding hazing prevention. Students described Horns Against Hazing as “a super fun way to connect with cohorts without expectations of drinking or staying out late” and “extra necessary with recent events impacting the UT community.”	Strive to increase attendance for the next Horns Against Hazing by expanding collaborations with additional campus partners and connecting students with more support resources. Plan to shift the program into a connected series of events, providing a new layer of engagement with topics and education which build on each other. This approach will provide students with a deeper knowledge on the intersection of hazing with various risks, organizational culture, and how to implement strategies to create safer organizations.
Longhorn Wellness Center Peer Educators	2024-2025: 44 students 2025-2026: 43 students	In Spring 2025 a Substance Use Safety workshop was added to the peer educator’s menu of options. In 2025-2026 the workshop reached 317 students.	Peer educators will continue as part of the Longhorn Wellness Center and the Substance Use Safety workshop will continue as an offering.
National Hazing Prevention Week (Prevention and Risk Education)	2024-2025: 236 students 2025-2026: 525 students	Attendees appreciated the event speakers and highlighted they knew “how to identify hazing when it’s not very obvious.” Students also learned more about the Prevention and Risk Education unit, which included the resources, prevention strategies and risk management consultations available to support them in building safer organizations.	Continue expanding the variety of on campus events launched last year and continue strengthening our collaborative work. Strive to increase student participation, reach new student populations and expand hazing prevention across campus.
New Member Educator Training (Prevention and Risk Education)	2024-2025: 59 students 2025-2026: 61 students	Feedback in coaching meetings with the student leaders has revealed the effectiveness of this program intending to help new member educators prepare for their new member programs.	A comprehensive review with updates is in progress as of summer 2026, and we will assess its effectiveness in fall 2026.
Operation Naloxone (SHIFT)	2024-2025: 1,924 students, faculty and staff 2025-2026: 7,885 students, faculty and staff	2024-25: Added four open distribution sites; adapted training for hospitality audience 2025-26: Added seven open distribution sites; tripled naloxone distribution; grew tabling efforts	Update training materials, revise pre-post survey, continue to expand network of distribution sites

Risk Management Summit (Sorority and Fraternity Life)	2024-2025: 13 staff; 199 students 2025-2026: 10 staff; 210 students	In Spring 2026, 85% of respondents reported that they learned something new at the Sorority and Fraternity Life (SFL) Risk Management Summit. Additionally, 87% of respondents reported that they were confident or very confident in utilizing university resources to help build a safe SFL community after attending the SFL Risk Management Summit.	New in 2026, each chapter completed a workshop reflecting on what they learned throughout the event and sharing their goals and remaining concerns. Each chapter received written, customized recommendations for resources and improvement based off of that information. These recommendations were discussed during Chapter Coaching. Hope to continue this model, and to do a better job measuring the effectiveness of these recommendations and how/if chapters are implementing any changes.
SHIFT	2024-2025: 22,300 students; 150 faculty, staff 2025-2026: 36,000 students; 250 faculty, staff	SHIFT has continued to grow its reach on campus, impacting individuals and groups that play a role in shaping campus culture. Have grown our on- and off-campus partnerships and built coalitions to facilitate conversations around preventing harm related to substance use and enhancing overall student well-being.	Continue to evaluate all programs under the SHIFT portfolio to ensure maximum impact. Monitor trends in student well-being to inform SHIFT's direction and drive innovative solutions. Strengthen systems to gather student input and feedback on SHIFT's work.
SHIFT Makers	2024-2025: 7,502 students, faculty and staff 2025-2026: 10,065 students, faculty, staff	2024-25: Expanded partnerships; Enhanced operations. 2025-26: Grew partnerships; Hired for more large-scale events; Served record number of events and drinks.	Expand number of events hosted by students or student organizations.
Texas Athletics Drug Education & Testing Program		No highlights to provide.	Adapt policies to reflect societal norms and NCAA policy/legislative changes as appropriate.
The Safety Education Program (Prevention and Risk Education)	2024-2025: 73 staff; 1,126 students 2025-2026: 61 staff; 1,130 students	Had the highest completion rates in September and October, which allowed student organization leaders to receive critical University policies, safety expectations, and knowledge of campus resources during new member recruitment and education.	Goal for upcoming year of Safety Education Program will have increased completion rates due to its alignment with the annual student organization registration process. This integration will now allow a streamlined experience for student leaders and timely completion of the program.
UCelebrate Survey (Longhorn Wellness Center)	2024-2025: 560 (# of students who completed	The UCelebrate Survey was implemented in Spring 2025. The survey was completed by 560 students, with a response rate of 12.44%. Overall the	Uncertain on status of National Social Norms Center and options related to continuing to implement this specific survey.

	the survey) 2025-2026: N/A	changes from the last survey in 2022 were largely positive, with more students practicing protective behaviors and disapproving of risky behaviors. Survey data helped to inform programmatic decisions related to substance use.	
Veteran and Military Affiliated Services Merges with Veteran Certification Team (Office of the Registrar)	2024-2025: Unknown 2025-2026: veteran and military students: 654 (493 used benefits); 2,168 dependent students	In 2025–26, Veteran and Military Affiliated Services (VMAS) merged with the Veteran Certification team, a move initiated by the Office of the Dean of Students to provide more holistic, student-centered support for veteran and military-affiliated students and their families. Because the Office of the Registrar already serves as the School Certifying Official for Veterans Affairs' educational benefits, the merge helps better align services, reduce administrative barriers and create a more coordinated experience for students seeking support and certification services.	The merger of the VMAS and Veteran Certification team is still underway. Have recently hired a new Director and are outlining plans for the upcoming academic year. There is no data to share at this time.
Volunteer and Advisor Training Initiatives (Sorority and Fraternity Life)	2024-2025: 19 volunteers and advisors 2025-2026: 16 volunteers and advisors	Attendees to this event share through ongoing conversations that this program, held each summer, allows them to feel updated and ready to take on the new semester with the knowledge they needed.	Will ensure a post-survey for participants is conducted next cycle.
Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction	2024-2025 & 2025-2026: 28 faculty/ staff; 55 students	2024-25: 9.5 million in NIH/NSF grants, 94 publications in peer-reviewed journals 2025-26: 12.6 million in active NIH/NSF grants, 101 publications in peer-reviewed journals.	None planned

West Fest Ready (SHIFT, Longhorn Wellness Center, Sorority and Fraternity Life, Interfraternity Council)	2024-2025: 60 Greek life chapter leaders 2025-2026: 32 Greek life chapter leaders	2024-25: Conducted pre-assessment, trained chapter leaders in safer event strategies, distributed resources (water, snacks) 2025-26: Trained chapter leaders in safer event strategies, distributed resources (water, snacks)	The goal for 2027 is to work with the Interfraternity Council to continue to think about the most effective and sustainable model for harm reduction efforts for West Fest weekend. Will follow student lead and interests on priorities while maintaining a consistent presence and advocate for best practices.

**Based on number of beds available in residence halls.*

Conclusions

The University of Texas at Austin continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to maintaining a healthy, safe and supportive campus environment through comprehensive substance misuse prevention, education, intervention, treatment, recovery and research efforts. In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the University maintains a broad portfolio of evidence-informed programs and services. It also provides students and employees with ongoing information regarding substance use, health risks, available resources and applicable sanctions.

The 2026 Biennial Review identified a robust and collaborative network of departments and units working across the continuum of care to address substance use and support well-being. Prevention and education efforts are integrated throughout the student experience, beginning with orientation and required health and well-being modules and extending through peer education, recovery support, harm reduction initiatives, student organization engagement, employee resources and research activities. During the review period, several initiatives demonstrated notable growth and innovation, including expanded naloxone access through Operation Naloxone, increased outreach through SHIFT and SHIFT Makers, enhanced support through the Center for Students in Recovery, and continued use of evidence-based interventions such as BASICS and CASICS.

The findings of this review indicate that UT Austin is actively meeting both the procedural and substantive requirements of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Assessment data suggest that substance misuse prevention and education programs are generally effective. Although opportunities remain to strengthen long-term assessment practices and expand the reach of selected initiatives, the University has established a strong foundation for promoting well-being, reducing substance-related harm and supporting informed decision-making among students and employees.

Significant findings are summarized below:

- During the 2024-2025 academic year, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity reported a total of 108 alcohol and seven drug violations. During the 2025-2026 academic year, there were a total of 82 alcohol and 11 drug violations by students.

- Nearly 88.5% of UT Austin substance misuse programs conduct assessments, using a variety of assessment methods, including quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods. The other 11.5% of substance misuse prevention and education program assessments were unspecified.

- 92.3% of programs were reported as either very effective or somewhat effective. Only 7.7% described their programs as neither effective nor ineffective.

- 57.7% of respondents felt that their programs should continue unchanged, while 30.8% of respondents indicated that their programs could be increased or improved.

Recommendations

In accordance with the findings of the 2026 Biennial Review and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Regulations, the following recommendations are offered to support continuous improvement and strengthen campus-wide substance misuse prevention, education and recovery efforts:

- Continue expanding collaborative, public health-focused approaches to substance use prevention. Strengthen partnerships among academic, student experience, health and well-being, athletics, housing, research and community stakeholders. These collaborations should support prevention, education, harm reduction, intervention and recovery while addressing the connections between substance use, mental health, belonging, academic success and overall well-being.

- Strengthen strategic communication and outreach throughout the student experience. Provide coordinated messaging at key transition points and during higher-risk periods. Continued outreach can reinforce awareness of available resources, support services and harm reduction strategies while encouraging help-seeking behaviors.

- Expand awareness and accessibility of recovery and harm reduction resources. Continue increasing the visibility of programs such as the Center for Students in Recovery, Operation Naloxone and the Substance Use Support Team. Growth in utilization across several initiatives suggests opportunities to connect even more students, faculty and staff with available support.

- Continue utilizing evidence-based interventions and consistent conduct practices. Maintain the use of educational interventions such as BASICS and CASICS alongside consistent sanctioning practices. Continued collaboration between Student Conduct and Academic Integrity and campus partners supports both accountability and student development.

- Enhance assessment, data collection and continuous improvement practices. Encourage consistent outcome measurement across programs and support the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data. Regular review of findings can help identify emerging needs, measure impact and inform future planning.

- Maintain support for campus research and data-informed decision making. Continue utilizing survey results, research findings and program assessment data to guide prevention priorities and resource allocation. Ongoing evaluation will help ensure programs remain responsive to evolving campus needs and emerging best practices.