



University of Arkansas – Cossatot

2025 Biennial Review

Drug Free Schools and Communities Act

Introduction

The University of Arkansas–Cossatot (UAC) maintains policies and procedures that align with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA), state laws, and institutional regulations regarding alcohol and drug use. These measures are designed to minimize substance-related issues and promote a safe, healthy learning environment for the campus community.

This biennial review report is organized into the following sections:

- A. Biennial Review Process
- B. College Policies
- C. Annual Notification
- D. Educational Programs and Interventions
- E. Campus Safety, Enforcement, Sanctions and Drug-Free Policy Compliance
- F. Health Risks Associated with Alcohol and Drug Use
- G. Program Review
- H. Resources

Inquiries regarding this review may be directed to the Vice Chancellor & Dean of Students at UA Cossatot (aaylett@cccua.edu | 870-584-1125).

A. Biennial Review Process

The Biennial Review Committee met during the Summer 2025 to review components essential to the college's drug and alcohol program: policy statements, publications, services, data collection, educational programming, campus life, alternative student activities, and data on student and employee conduct.

The following campus units contributed to this report:

- Vice Chancellor for Academics/Dean of Student
- Human Resources
- Director of Student Services

- Center for Student Success
- Housing
- Campus Police

B. College Policies

Tobacco- and Drug-Free Campus (Policy 782)

UA Cossatot maintains a tobacco- and drug-free campus in compliance with the Clean Air on Campus Act of 2009 and state law. Smoking, the use of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes), and related littering are strictly prohibited on all college-owned or leased property, including buildings, grounds, vehicles, and athletic facilities. The possession or use of illegal drugs or alcohol is also forbidden. Violations may result in involvement of campus police or local law enforcement, as well as disciplinary action for students and employees. Members of the campus community are expected to support compliance by raising awareness, reporting violations, and ensuring that all attendees at campus events adhere to these regulations.

Student Policy

Under the Student Code of Conduct, UA Cossatot prohibits the possession, use, distribution, manufacture, or sale of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco on all college-owned or leased property, including student housing. Alcohol is not permitted at any time on campus or at college-sponsored events, regardless of age. Students may also not be in the presence of alcohol while on college property or in college housing.

The use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances—including marijuana (even for medical use)—as well as the misuse of prescription medications, is strictly prohibited. UA Cossatot also enforces a tobacco-free environment across all property, in accordance with Arkansas law, which extends to electronic cigarettes and vaporizers. Students found in violation may face disciplinary measures up to expulsion, along with possible legal consequences. These policies reinforce the college's commitment to a safe, healthy, and substance-free learning environment, consistent with federal law (Public Law 101-226).

Employee Policy (Policy 479: Drug-Free Workplace)

UA Cossatot enforces the State of Arkansas's Drug-Free Workplace Policy, which prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, dispensation, or use of controlled substances in the workplace. Controlled substances include both illegal drugs and prescription medications not prescribed for the individual.

Employees are legally required to notify the college within five (5) days of any workplace-related drug conviction. If the employee works in a federally funded or grant-supported

position, the college must report the conviction to the funding agency within ten (10) days. Violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination, or the requirement to complete an approved drug treatment program. Compliance with this policy is a condition of employment, and supervisors are responsible for reporting any employee convictions to the appropriate vice chancellor.

C. Annual Notification

An annual notification is sent to all students and employees that includes the following:

1. Standards of Conduct
2. University Policies
3. Regulations, Enforcement, and Sanctions
4. Local Resources

The Annual Security Report may be found on the College's website on the [Federal Disclosure page](#).

D. Educational Programs and Interventions

The Center for Student Success provides ongoing support and educational programming for students throughout the academic year. Through the Center for Student Success, students have access to a variety of workshops, awareness campaigns, and classroom presentations that address the risks of drug and alcohol use, offer prevention strategies, and promote available support resources. The Center also collaborates with local coalitions to enhance programming by leveraging training, funding, and informational materials.

One major initiative is participation in the Save AR Students campaign, part of the Arkansas Collegiate Network (ACN), which was established in 2018. ACN works to promote student well-being and prevent substance misuse statewide. During Substance Abuse Awareness Week, the Center for Student Success hosts interactive workshops and NARCAN training sessions. Student volunteers help lead outreach efforts by managing informational tables, distributing educational materials on substances such as prescription opioids, heroin, fentanyl, and amphetamines, and engaging peers with interactive tools like a drug awareness wheel. Promotional items like buttons and t-shirts are also shared to reinforce campaign messaging.

Additionally, during Red Ribbon Week, the High School Programs division conducts "Drunk Goggles" sessions for high school students attending classes on campus, further reinforcing awareness and prevention messages across student populations.

E. Campus Safety, Enforcement, Sanctions and Drug-Free Policy Compliance

UA Cossatot is committed to maintaining a safe, drug-free environment that promotes the well-being and academic success of its students. The college employs a multifaceted approach to drug and alcohol policy enforcement, combining campus patrol, housing oversight, disciplinary procedures, and educational programming.

Campus Law Enforcement

Three full-time sworn officers are stationed on the UA Cossatot campus, providing law enforcement services and working to ensure the protection of individuals and property. These officers routinely patrol the campus to enforce all college policies and applicable state and federal laws, including those related to underage drinking and controlled substances. Their presence helps deter illegal activity and ensures rapid response to potential threats or violations.

Housing Oversight

To support housing safety, three full-time professional staff members share responsibilities of regularly monitor housing are on-call after hours to respond to emergencies or policy violations that occur outside of standard business hours.

College Sanctions for Policy Violations

UA Cossatot enforces strict disciplinary measures for any student or employee found in violation of its alcohol and drug policies. This includes the use, possession, sale, or distribution of controlled substances or alcohol on campus or during college-related activities. Disciplinary action may include suspension, expulsion, termination of employment, and/or referral to law enforcement for prosecution.

The Vice Chancellor for Academics/Dean of Students is responsible for overseeing the student conduct process. Any student found in violation of these procedures will immediately be placed on probation and may be subject to additional disciplinary actions which may include dismissal from the institution and housing.

Some academic programs may have additional substance-use policies tied to professional or licensing standards. Students enrolled in these programs are responsible for complying with both college-wide and program-specific requirements.

Legal Sanctions Under Arkansas Law

Beyond college disciplinary action, students and employees may also face legal penalties for violations of local, state, or federal drug and alcohol laws. These include:

- **Underage DUI:** Individuals under 21 found operating a vehicle with a BAC between 0.02 and 0.07 may face fines, license suspension, and jail time. Repeat offenses carry increasingly severe penalties, including felony charges and possible vehicle forfeiture.
- **Driving While Intoxicated (DWI):** Operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs can result in jail time, fines up to \$5,000, license revocation, and mandatory community service for repeat offenders.
- **Public Intoxication:** Appearing in public under the influence to the point of being disruptive or dangerous is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine and/or up to 30 days in jail.
- **Minor in Possession of Alcohol:** Possession by anyone under 21 can result in a \$500 fine and a 60-day driver's license suspension, with increased penalties for repeated offenses.
- **Knowingly Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor:** Adults who provide alcohol to minors can face fines and misdemeanor or felony charges, depending on prior offenses.

F. Health Risks Associated with Alcohol and Drug Use

While some individuals may initially experience short-term effects from alcohol or drug use—such as increased energy, reduced stress, or elevated mood—these are often quickly outweighed by serious long-term health consequences.

Alcohol consumption, particularly over time, can impair decision-making and judgment, contributing to risky behavior. Prolonged use is associated with a higher risk of developing alcoholism, liver disease, and cardiovascular issues. Research also shows that individuals who begin drinking at an early age are more likely to develop patterns of heavy use during adolescence and dependency later in life.

Substance use can affect both physical and mental health in the following ways:

- Mood instability and poor decision-making

- Depression, anxiety, or manic episodes
- Sleep disturbances and irritability
- Heightened aggression or hostility
- Respiratory or cardiac complications, which in some cases can be fatal
- Compromised immune function, making users more vulnerable to infections
- Liver damage or failure

Warning signs of substance dependency may include:

- A growing tolerance that leads to increased use and greater risk of overdose
- Noticeable changes in personal relationships and social behaviors
- Withdrawal symptoms such as headaches, nausea, shakiness, or even hallucinations
- A psychological reliance on substances to manage daily life or emotional stress

For more detailed information and resources on substance abuse and its effects, visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse at www.drugabuse.gov.

Employee Assistance Resources

For employees, the college's medical plans cover inpatient services, residential treatment, day (partial hospitalization) treatment, and outpatient therapy services related to mental health treatment or substance use and dependency.

Although UA Cossatot does not operate a formal Employee Assistance Program, the institution recognizes that personal difficulties—including those related to substance use—can affect employee well-being and job performance. To support employees, information about controlled substances, alcohol, and health risks is available through Human Resources and local treatment providers, including:

- River Ridge Treatment Center (Inpatient Only)
7000 North State Line, Texarkana, AR 71854 | (870) 774-1315
- Southwest Arkansas Counseling and Mental Health Center (24-Hour Crisis Line)
(800) 652-9166
- Texarkana Clinic & Administrative Offices
2904 Arkansas Blvd., Texarkana, AR 71854 | (870) 773-4655
- De Queen Clinic
1312 W. Collin Raye Drive, P.O. Box 459, De Queen, AR 71832 | (870) 584-7115
- Nashville Clinic
508 N. Second St., P.O. Box 576, Nashville, AR 71852 | (870) 845-3110

G. Program Review

Program Strengths

UA Cossatot has demonstrated a strong commitment to maintaining a drug-free campus through comprehensive policies, enforcement efforts, and ongoing education. Key strengths of the program include:

- **Clear Policies:** The university maintains well-defined, accessible Alcohol and Drug policies that apply to both students and employees. These policies are consistently communicated through the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, which are reviewed and updated annually.
- **Consistent Enforcement:** Campus policies related to alcohol and drug use are enforced reliably, reinforcing the university's stance on creating a safe and healthy learning environment.
- **Fair Conduct Process:** The college offers a structured and equitable student conduct process that supports accountability while providing educational opportunities for growth and behavior change.
- **Proactive Programming:** A variety of programs and activities are offered throughout the academic year to raise awareness and promote prevention of alcohol and drug abuse. These efforts focus on education, responsible decision-making, and connecting students with relevant resources.
- **Strong Interdepartmental Collaboration:** There are effective partnerships among key campus departments, including the Police Department, the Dean of Students, Housing, and Campus and Community Events. These collaborations enhance program delivery and policy enforcement.
- **Student-Centered Approach:** Prevention and intervention programs are designed with students in mind, encouraging healthy choices and personal responsibility.

Program Opportunities

While UA Cossatot's drug-free initiatives are strong, the following areas present opportunities for continued growth:

- **Enhance Awareness Efforts:** Expand the scope and visibility of prevention programs to reach a broader segment of the campus population.
- **Strengthen Campus Collaboration:** Continue fostering strong relationships between departments to ensure seamless communication and coordinated efforts.
- **Leverage Community Resources:** Increase awareness of external community resources and work to make these more accessible and visible to students, faculty, and staff.

Conclusion

UA Cossatot is fulfilling its obligations under the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act by implementing strong policies, ensuring consistent enforcement, and offering meaningful educational opportunities. The college remains committed to providing a safe, healthy environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and personally. Through continued collaboration and a proactive approach to prevention, UA Cossatot supports its mission to prepare students to be fully functioning and productive individuals in society.