

Biennial Review Drugs and Alcohol Prevention Plan 2022-2024

West Georgia Technical College

Purpose of the Plan

To comply with the 1989 Amendments to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) will create a drug and alcohol awareness program to be reviewed biennially by the VP of Student Affairs and/or her designees. This plan will outline programs and activities associated with Drug and Alcohol Awareness endeavors throughout the year, with specific communication to students, faculty and staff during spring and fall semester. The plan reviews the dangers of drugs and alcohol, policy, procedure, student conduct and state and local actions. In accordance with 34 CF 86 of the Consumer Information Disclosure, WGTC's plan will review the enforcement and disciplinary sanction(s) imposed on violators of the college's Drug and Alcohol policies. The Biennial review will help determine whether these enforcement efforts and sanctions were applied in a consistent manner. This report is submitted as West Georgia Technical College's Biennial Review for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Summary

West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) is a non-residential institution which offers over 100 associate degree, diploma, and technical certificate programs of study. We also partner with area business and industry as we offer excellent continuing education and economic development programs to further support the workforce development needs of this region. WGTC is one of 22 colleges in the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) serving roughly 6,900 students across five campuses located in seven counties. TCSG, the governing body for WGTC, has documented policies specific to drug and alcohol use on campus. In accordance to TCSG policy 4.8.1. (<https://tcsge.edu/tcsgpolicy/files/4.8.1.pdf>), WGTC is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment that enriches our students, faculty, and staff. WGTC implements and adheres to TCSG Policy 4.8.1 which prohibits the possession, use, distribution, and unlawful manufacture of illegal drugs, narcotics or controlled substances on all campuses. Alcohol is not allowed on campus except when a written Exception Request is submitted for consideration and is approved by the college president. It is the responsibility of each student, faculty, and staff member to be familiar with the provisions of the policy and also the State of Georgia laws as they pertain to alcohol and drug use and abuse. The College's Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program places responsibility for individual and group conduct on the individuals who use drugs and consume alcohol. The management and enforcement of WGTC's Alcohol and Drug policy and programs present unique challenges due to non-residential life. Rather than faced with on-campus violations of alcohol and drug laws and conduct policies, WGTC's VPSA, Dean of Students, Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), faculty, and staff more often handle the impact of alcohol use and abuse that occurs on campus and within college-related activities; thus placing the emphasis on recognizing the signs and symptoms of use/abuse and providing external resources available for treatment. The college's focus is to address drug and alcohol prevention through emphasis on drug and alcohol laws, collaborations with external agencies, and access to treatment facilities within our educational efforts.

Goals for WGTC Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan

1. To support a culture and atmosphere free from alcohol and other drug/substance use and abuse on the campus community
2. To develop and disseminate information for the members of the campus community regarding alcohol and other drug/substance use issues for the purpose of awareness, education, and prevention

3. To make the campus community aware of the availability of alcohol and other drug/substance use intervention services such as counseling, referral to in-patient and out-patient treatment, and to provide ongoing support for students, faculty, and staff.

Achievement of these goals is measured by student awareness rates, sponsored alcohol and drug/substance awareness events, activities and campaigns, as well as knowledge of alcohol and drug/substance use and dangers. Students may be provided surveys during specific times during the semester most notably at Student Life events. Additionally, surveys will help indicate that students are knowledgeable of counseling and support services, which are perceived as valuable assets.

Drugs and Alcohol Prevention Plan for 2022-2024

To meet these goals, WGTC's Dean of Students, Student Life Office, and the Behavioral Intervention Team offer a variety of programs designed to educate and support an alcohol-free and drug-free/substance-free lifestyle. Below are some examples of these efforts:

Host Drug and Alcohol Awareness Events

Active programs

In collaboration with the Department of Student Life plan and host annual (virtual or in person) events that educate students about drugs and alcohol including subjects like: responsible alcohol consumption, opioid crisis awareness, and DEA takeback days. These events will also supply students with information about community providers for drug and alcohol prevention and rehabilitation programs.

Passive programs

The next two years will include the following passive programs to help educate students on the dangers of alcohol and drugs consumption:

- A print and poster mass media campaign on all campus locations to increase awareness and dispel drinking and drug use myths and misconceptions
- An electronic and social multimedia campaign to increase student knowledge and awareness of drug/substance and alcohol use incorporating "Did You Know?" facts
- This could be you! - A wrecked cars campaign. Every October Student Life will work with the WGTC police department to display a wrecked car on all 5 main campuses that will remind students to drink responsibly and discourage drinking and driving.
- Promoting the drug and alcohol policies outlined in the WGTC Student Handbook
- Promoting the available information in the Student Code of Conduct
- Drug and alcohol awareness information and resources on the campus website under WGTC Student Support Resources and Student Consumer Information

Student Awareness Assessment

Students will complete a short 2-3 question assessment in which they will be surveyed for their knowledge of the WGTC drug and alcohol campaign, counseling and referral options for drug and alcohol use, and awareness of student email notification acknowledgement during campus events, study breaks or library visits. Questions will include:

1. "Are you aware that WGTC has an ongoing Drug and Alcohol Awareness Campaign through electronic signage, posters, and educational materials on each campus location?"

2. “Are you aware that WGTC sends an email message to students notifying them of the dangers, sanctions, student code of conduct and health impairment associated with drugs and alcohol?”
3. “Are you aware that WGTC has counseling services and referral resources for students who are affected by drug or alcohol use?”

Distribution of Policies

A copy of WGTC’s Drug and Alcohol Policy is distributed biannually (fall and spring semesters) to all students, faculty and staff. The College strongly encourages being familiar with the Policy. The Policy is available in the college catalog and is accessible on the college website at <https://www.westgatech.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Drug-and-Alcohol-Policy.pdf>

Each member of the college community receives an e-mail notifying them of the availability of the Policy and a link to access it online. In addition, WGTC emails a notification to all enrolled students announcing the publication and the website link. Further, prospective students and employees are provided with information about WGTC’s Drug and Alcohol Policy and the web address for accessing it. The Drug and Alcohol Policy is also formally presented by human resources staff during each New Employee Orientation session.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

Alcohol Policies

The presence of alcohol on college campuses shall be governed by the provisions of federal, state and local laws and applicable State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia policies and procedures. All persons entering the campus or any facility owned or operated by the Technical College System of Georgia or any of its Technical Colleges must comply with these laws, policies, and procedures. (TCSG Policy 3.3.6 <https://tcsge.edu/tcsgpolicy/files/3.3.6.pdf>)

Any person using alcoholic beverages while on the campus of West Georgia Technical College shall be responsible for compliance with state and county laws and the College’s Alcohol Policy. It is illegal in the State of Georgia for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase, possess or consume alcohol or to falsify or misrepresent his or her age to obtain alcohol.

Drug Policies

The use, possession, and/or sale of illegal drugs are violations of the College’s Drug and Alcohol Policy, the faculty contract, and the terms of employment of administrative, classified, and contingent staff.

Faculty, students, and staff who use, possess, or sell illegal drugs are subject to criminal prosecution as well as administrative disciplinary actions including mandatory counseling, suspension, or dismissal.

Enforcement

The use, possession, sale or furnishing of alcohol and illicit drugs on the West Georgia Technical College campus is governed by the College’s Drug and Alcohol Policy and state and federal laws. These laws are strictly enforced by the West Georgia Technical College Police Department. Violators are subject to college disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, fines, and/or imprisonment.

There have been ZERO Drug & Liquor Law arrests and ZERO Drug & Liquor Law violations Referred for Disciplinary Action in the past three years (2018-2020) on ALL WGTC campuses and sites. You can review this information here: <https://www.westgatech.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Security-Report-2021.pdf>

WGTC's VPSA, Dean of Students, Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), faculty, and staff used the following materials to help produce this Biennial Review and aid in determining strengths, opportunities, and recommendations:

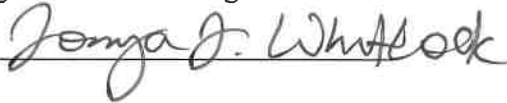
- TCSG Alcohol and Drug Policy
- WGTC Student Code of Conduct
- WGTC Student Catalog (2021-2022)
- WGTC Annual Security Report (2021)
- WGTC Website, including:
 - Student Consumer Information
 - Golden: A Student Counseling Resource
 - WGTC Student Support Resources
 - KnightCARE, KnightCARE FAQ, and KnightCARE Incident Report Form
- Higher Education Act of 1965, Section 484 (As Amended through P.L. 115-334, Enacted December 20, 2018)
 - Sec. 119. ø20 u.s.c. 1011h binge drinking on college campuses
 - Sec. 120. ø20 u.s.c. 1011i drug and alcohol abuse prevention
- National Institute on Drug Abuse website
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism website
- National Institute of Health website

Suggested improvements from the BIT:

- Possibly use a system like Mailchimp etc. so that you can see how many students viewed the annual message that goes out to students about drug and alcohol awareness etc.
- Ask for a way to have staff and faculty indicate that they have also reviewed these annual materials.

Tonya Whitlock, PhD
Vice President of Student Affairs
West Georgia Technical College

Signature:



Melinda Hofius
Dean of Students
West Georgia Technical College

Signature:



Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT)

Lauren Edgar, Executive Director of Dual Enrollment
Melinda Hofius, Dean of Students
Zelma Jones, Accessibility Services Coordinator
James Perry, Chief of Police
Jessica Simmerson, Special Populations Coordinator
Dr. Kelly Steed, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Tonya Whitlock, Vice President of Student Affairs

Department of Student Life

LaToya Cotton, Manager of Student Life
Misty Lang, Manager of Student Engagement

As set forth in its student catalog, West Georgia Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, gender, religion, disability, age, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, disabled veteran, a veteran of the Vietnam Era, or citizenship status (except in those special circumstances permitted or mandated by law). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Equity (Title IX) Coordinator is the Dean of Students, 176 Murphy Campus Blvd, Waco, GA. 30182. 770.537.5722. ADA (Section 504) Coordinator is the V.P. of Administrative Services, 401 Adamson Square, Carrollton, GA 30117. 678.664.0400