



DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT (DFSCA) 2023

BIENNIAL REVIEW

**ACADEMIC YEARS
2021-2022
2022-2023**

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA



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Introduction

Texas A&M University - Texarkana, is a comprehensive public university located in Texarkana, Texas. First established as an upper-level center of East Texas State University (ETSU) at Commerce, Texas in 1971, the university received separate accreditation in 1980. In September 1996, the university joined the A&M System, and in 2010, Texas A&M-Texarkana became a full four-year graduate institution and moved to a beautiful new campus adjacent to Bringle Lake Park in north Texarkana.

As a member of The Texas A&M University System, one of the largest and most distinguished higher education systems in the nation, we provide our students with a world-class education in a supportive, family-like community.

In a cooperative effort, the following departments have focused efforts to implement programs to promote a healthy environment for the university community and enforce regulations for the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse: Student Life, University Police Department, Human Resources, Travel Administration, Athletics, and Academics.

Alcohol & Drug Program

TAMUT formally established an alcohol and drug program to address substance abuse prevention and treatment and comply with Federal Regulations such as the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991. The program provides education, intervention and referral of employees and students with substance abuse problems. [System Regulation 34.02.01, Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Rehabilitation Programs](#) details who is covered by these Acts, establishes procedures for random alcohol and drug testing, and specifies the consequences for substance abuse by employees.

Texas A&M University – Texarkana’s Policy Regarding Drug and Alcohol Use

Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) is committed to a drug-free environment and protecting the safety, health, and well-being of all employees and students. The use of illicit drugs and alcohol may have a detrimental impact on the University and its ability to achieve its mission. This rule provides guidelines for the implementation of a drug and alcohol abuse awareness, prevention, and intervention program for students and employees in accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the Drug-Free Workforce Rules for Department of Defense (DoD) Contractors, and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989. [34-02-01-h1.pdf \(tamut.edu\)](#)

This rule must be applied in conjunction with [System Policy 34.02. Drug and Alcohol Abuse and System Regulation 34.02.01, Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Rehabilitation Programs.](#)

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. ADMINISTRATION

1.1. Texas A&M University-Texarkana is committed to educating students and employees about alcohol and drug abuse, deterring the irresponsible use of alcoholic beverages, and prohibiting the unlawful manufacture, use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances. The University will act to ensure compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988; the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989; the Drug-Free Work Force Rules for Department of Defense (DoD) Contractors; and requirements of the Department of Transportation; or other regulatory bodies and applicable state laws for students and employees.

1.2. The Director of Human Resources (for employees) and the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs (for students) shall inform the Office of General Counsel (OGC) of possible violations of this rule and the advice of an OGC

attorney will be secured before testing anyone due to reasonable suspicion of drug or alcohol use or abuse. All testing will follow the procedures described in [System Regulation 34.02.01 Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Rehabilitation Programs.](#)

1.3. Employees are prohibited from using or being under the influence of controlled substances during working hours, except for the legal use of a controlled substance prescribed by a licensed physician that is used only in the manner, combination, and quantity prescribed.

1.4. Students and employees in violation of this rule may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include dismissal, expulsion, and/or referral for prosecution.

1.5. In addition to this rule, students are subject to the alcohol or drug policies found in the Student Code of Conduct. Student-athletes are also subject to the policies related to participation in intercollegiate athletics.

2. AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

2.1. To implement an effective alcohol and drug-free awareness and prevention program, the University will use both formal and informal channels of communication to:

2.1.1. Disseminate information describing patterns of addiction and the physical, mental, and emotional consequences that result from the abuse of alcohol and controlled/illegal substances.

2.1.2. Distribute information that describes and encourages the use of counseling and treatment modalities available to both students and employees in the local and regional area.

2.1.3. Make available to campus population referrals to local treatment centers and counseling programs. These referrals will be made within a supportive confidential and non-punitive environment under the auspices

of the University Counseling Center, the Office of Student Affairs, the Employee Assistance Program, and/or Human Resources.

2.2. Students and employees must receive materials annually that contain standards of conduct, a description of the various laws that apply regarding alcohol and drugs, a description of the various health risks of drug and alcohol abuse, a description of counseling and treatment programs that are available, and a statement on the sanctions the university will impose a violation of the standards of conduct. The Office of Human Resources will notify each employee and the Office of Student Life will notify each student electronically or in writing.

2.3. The Clery Compliance Committee will implement the university's alcohol and drug-free awareness and prevention program and biennially review and report on the program in accordance with this rule and [System Regulation 34.02.01, Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Rehabilitation Programs.](#)

3. RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT AND INVESTIGATE

3.1. Employees and students are responsible for reporting a reasonable suspicion of drug or alcohol abuse by employees or students to their immediate supervisor, Human Resources, Office of Student Life, or the University Police Department.

3.2. Reasonable suspicion will be established by (1) observation of the actions/behaviors of the individual; (2) a supervisor or other reliable individual witnessing possession or use; or (3) any other legal measure used for alcohol or drug detection.

Texas A&M University - Texarkana Annual Policy Notification/Distribution
<https://www.tamut.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/alcohol.html#>

To ensure the University's commitment to a quality educational and work environment, every faculty member, employee, and student has a right to work and learn in an environment free from the effects of abuse of alcohol and other drugs. It is the policy of the University to discourage the misuse and abuse of alcoholic beverages and other drugs. The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act requires every institution of higher education to inform students of standards of conduct that clearly prohibit violations of

local, state, and federal laws pertaining to alcohol and other drugs. Parents may be notified of students who are found responsible for alcohol and drug violations under The Student Code of Conduct.

Alcoholic beverages may be served and consumed at official University functions and approved non-university functions as designated by the President or his/her designee. However, alcoholic beverages may not be served at on-campus functions of Student Organizations.

1. The University prohibits the following actions and behaviors:

- A. Purchase, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of twenty-one.
- B. Aiding and abetting an underage person in the purchase or possession of alcoholic beverages.
- C. Falsification of a driver's license or other identification in order to obtain alcoholic beverages.
- D. Appearing in any public place under the influence of alcohol, the individual may endanger his/herself or other persons, damage property, or disturb persons in the vicinity.
- E. Driving while under the influence or while intoxicated.
- F. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Bringle Lake Village Residence Hall.

2. Alcoholic beverages may be served and consumed at University events held off-campus according to the following guidelines, as well as in addition to the above guidelines:

- A. The sale, serving, and consumption of alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited except in areas and at times and dates licensed by the Texas Alcohol Beverage Control Board, or similar agencies in other states.

- B. Sponsoring groups and organizations will be responsible for providing security to ensure that guests conduct themselves properly and to assist with crowd control.
 - C. Alcohol may not be consumed or carried in open containers on any street, sidewalk, alley, or in a motor vehicle.
 - D. Activity sponsors must examine the identification of all guests entering the activity. Guests under the age of twenty-one are not permitted to consume alcoholic beverages. If the activity is located in another state, all applicable state and local laws regarding alcohol sales, services, and consumption shall prevail. Sponsors must ensure that official law enforcement or on-site security personnel verify the identification of all participants.
 - E. Littering, infringing upon the rights of others, and abuse of public or private property in connection with possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
 - F. Promotion or advertising of an event must not encourage any form of alcohol abuse, nor should events be advertised to emphasize the quantity and/or frequency of use of alcohol.
 - G. Alcohol should not be provided as an award or prize to individuals or campus organizations.
 - H. Student organizations must designate one person, perhaps an officer of that organization, to assume responsibility for assuring that there is knowledge of and compliance with these alcohol policies. It is recommended that this person participates in the special education programs offered by the Office of Student Life.
3. Beer distributors, liquor companies, bars, and nightclubs are not permitted to:
- advertise on campus,
 - co-sponsor an event with a student organization,

- advertise on any schedule card, athletic brochure or press guide, or other printed material,
- provide advertising for University events presented on the radio or television

4. TAMUT does not assume responsibility for unofficial events held off-campus involving individuals or groups affiliated with the University. However, the University reserves the right to hold students and student organizations accountable for violations of federal, state, and local law by TAMUT students or student organizations off-campus in which said violations adversely affect the University community and/or pursuit of its objectives

All members of the campus community are expected to abide by state and federal laws regarding controlled substances, illegal drugs, and alcoholic beverages. The possession, use, or sale of illegal drugs (as defined by the Texas Penal Code) on campus is strictly prohibited and is a violation of state law. Violations can result in both University disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.

If a student or student organization is found responsible for a violation of the Code of Conduct as it relates to drug and alcohol abuse, sanctions that may be imposed include Disciplinary Warning, Disciplinary Probation, Suspension, Suspension in Abeyance, Suspension of an organization, Expulsion, or other sanctions as appropriate. Suspension and Expulsion will result in a notation on all academic transcripts. According to federal regulations, students convicted for a drug offense that occurred during a period of enrollment while receiving Title IV Federal Financial Aid may lose eligibility for Federal Aid.

Employee sanctions for violations of drug and alcohol policies may include but are not limited to, suspension without pay, transfer, demotion, reduction in salary, referral to a treatment program or prosecution, or dismissal.

An employee or student who violates alcohol or drug laws may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and may be subject to prosecution in accordance with the law. Legal sanctions for violation of local, state, and federal laws may include, but not be limited to fines, probation, jail, or prison sentences.

Texas State Laws Governing Alcohol and Drugs

Misdemeanor charges:

Minor in Possession (MIP)	Class C Misdemeanor
Public Intoxication	Class C Misdemeanor
Driving Under the Influence (DUI)	Class C Misdemeanor
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI):	Class B Misdemeanor
Providing Alcohol to a Minor or Purchasing Alcohol for a Minor	Class A Misdemeanor
Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle	Class C Misdemeanor
Possession of a Dangerous Drug	Class A Misdemeanor
Providing a Dangerous Drug to Another Person	State Jail Felony
Consumption of alcohol after hours	City Ordinance

Sanctions/penalties:

Class C Misdemeanor:	Can include fine of up to \$500, 20 to 40 hours of community service, alcohol education classes, and driver's license suspension.
Class B Misdemeanor:	Can include a fine of up to \$2000, community service, and 72-hour minimum confinement.
Class A Misdemeanor:	Can include a fine of up to \$4000, up to 1 year in jail, and a 180-day driver's license suspension.
State Jail Felony:	Can include a fine of up to \$10,000 and 180 days to 2 years in jail.

Federal drug laws/penalties:

The possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs is prohibited by federal law. Under federal law ([DEA, Title 21, Section 844](#)), for simple possession of a controlled substance, one may be imprisoned for up to one year and/or fined up to \$1,000.00. For subsequent offenses, one may be imprisoned for up to three years and/or fined up to \$5,000.00. Under federal law, one may be fined up to \$8,000,000.00 and/or may be sentenced from not less than 10 years up to life in prison for trafficking in drugs. For violations of other federal drug laws, one may receive life in prison or the death penalty.

Health Risks of Drugs and Alcohol

Alcohol abuse is a prime contributor to suicide, homicide, and motor vehicle accidents and deaths. Alcohol and drug abuse can also lead to chemical dependency, premature death through overdose, brain damage, gastritis, anemia, and other physical problems.

The use of illicit drugs can result in a wide range of health problems, including seizures, heart problems, liver diseases, chronic brain dysfunctions, HIV/AIDS, other diseases and infections, and death. Substance abuse can also cause addiction, memory loss, hallucinations, and paranoia.

- Alcohol: Effects of use include slurred speech, drowsiness, headaches, impaired judgment, decreased perception and coordination, distorted vision and hearing, vomiting, breathing difficulties, unconsciousness, coma, blackouts, toxic psychosis, physical dependence, neurological and liver damage, fetal alcohol syndrome, vitamin B1 deficiency, sexual problems, cancer, physical dependence
- Amphetamines: Also known as uppers, speed, meth, crack, crystal, ice, pep pills. Effects of use include increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, dry mouth, loss of appetite, restlessness, irritability, anxiety, delusions, hallucinations, heart problems, hypertension, irritability, insomnia, toxic psychosis, physical dependence.
- Barbiturates and Tranquilizers: Also known as barbs, bluebirds, blues, yellow jackets, red devils, roofies, rohypnol, ruffies, tranqs, mickey, flying v's. Effects of use include slurred speech, muscle

DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM NOTICE relaxation, dizziness, decreased motor control, severe withdrawal symptoms, possible convulsions, toxic psychosis, depression, physical dependence.

- Cocaine: Also known as coke, crack, snow, powder, blow, rock. Effects of use include loss of appetite increased blood pressure and heart rate, contracted blood vessels, nausea, hyper-stimulation, anxiety, paranoia, increased hostility, increased rate of breathing, muscle spasms and convulsions, dilated pupils, disturbed sleep, psychosis, chronic cough, nasal passage injury, kidney, liver, and lung damage.
- Marijuana/Cannabis: Also known as pot, grass, dope, weed, joint, bud, reefer, doobie, roach. Effects of use include sensory distortion, poor coordination of movement, slowed reaction time, panic, anxiety, bronchitis, lethargy, shortened attention span, suppressed immune system, personality changes, cancer, psychological dependence, and for some, possible physical dependence.
- Morphine/Opiates: Also known as M, morf, duramorph, Miss Emma, monkey, roxanol, white stuff. Effects of use can include euphoria, increased body temperature, dry mouth, “heavy” feeling in arms and legs, constipation, loss of appetite, collapsed veins, heart infections, liver disease, depressed respiration, pneumonia and other pulmonary complications, physical and psychological dependence.
- Emotional consequences of alcohol and drug abuse are often minimized. These substances can cause personality changes which contribute to problems in dealing with family and co-workers. The personality changes may seriously impair a person and these changes can lead to psychological problems and mental illnesses. Substance abuse may also disrupt effectiveness on the job, reduce motivation, cause legal and financial problems, and contribute to social problems.

Alcohol Consumption

Health hazards associated with excessive use of alcohol dependency include dramatic behavioral changes, retardation of motor skills, and impairment of reasoning and

rational thinking. These factors result in higher incidents of accidents and accidental death for such persons than for nonusers of alcohol.

People who consume substantial amounts of alcohol over a brief period can reach extremely high blood alcohol levels before they pass out. This can lead to decreased breathing and death. Vomiting associated with elevated levels of alcohol may also cause choking and death. If you need help with an intoxicated friend:

- Keep calm and get help. Individuals with high alcohol-blood levels can be unpredictable and violent.
- Speak in a firm, clear, reassuring manner.
- Stay with a person who is vomiting. If the victim is lying down, turn them on their side, keep the tongue from falling back into the throat, and protect them from choking.
- Monitor the person. If they become unconscious or appear to have problems breathing, seek medical help immediately by calling 911.
- Do not try to walk, run, or exercise the person, and do not try to keep them awake.
- Do not try to restrain them without sober assistance.
- Do not force anything orally—food, liquids, or drugs—in an attempt to sober them up.
- Do not try to give them a cold shower—this can be extremely dangerous.

Nutrition also suffers and vitamin and mineral deficiencies are frequent. Prolonged alcohol abuse causes bleeding from the intestinal tract, damage to nerves and the brain, liver damage, psychotic behavior, and loss of memory and coordination. Other risks include impotence, inflammation of the pancreas, and damage to bone marrow, the heart, testes, ovaries, and muscles. Damage to nerves and organs can be irreversible.

The use of illicit drugs may lead to physiological and mental changes similar to those caused by alcohol, although changes are usually more severe and more sudden. Death or coma resulting from an overdose of drugs is also more frequent. In addition to adverse effects associated with the use of a particular drug, intravenous-drug users who use

unsterilized needles or who share needles with others can develop AIDS, hepatitis, and other harmful diseases.

For additional health risks associated with alcohol and drug abuse:

- [Department of Justice, Drugs of Abuse](#)
- [National Institute of Alcohol Abuse, and Alcoholism, Alcohol's Effect on the Body](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Fact Sheets- Alcohol Use and Your Health](#)
- [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)

Counseling Services for Employees/Employee Assistance Program

Work/Life Solutions Program by GuidanceResources®

Office Hours: Open 24 hours every day

Active employees: 866-301-9623

TTY: 800-697-0353

Online: www.guidanceresources.com

App: GuidanceNow (App Store) (Google Play)

Organization Web ID: TAMUS

Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs Available to Students and Employees

Counseling and Mental Health

Name	Phone	Address	Website
TAMUT Employee Assistance Program	1-888-993-7650	See website	https://tamut.edu/administration/human-resources/benefits/eap.html
TAMUT Student Counseling Office	903-223-3186	University Center Room 420	https://tamut.edu/counseling/index.html
Southwest Arkansas Counseling & Mental Health Center, Inc.	870-773-4655	2904 Arkansas Blvd., Texarkana, AR 71854	https://www.swacmhc.net

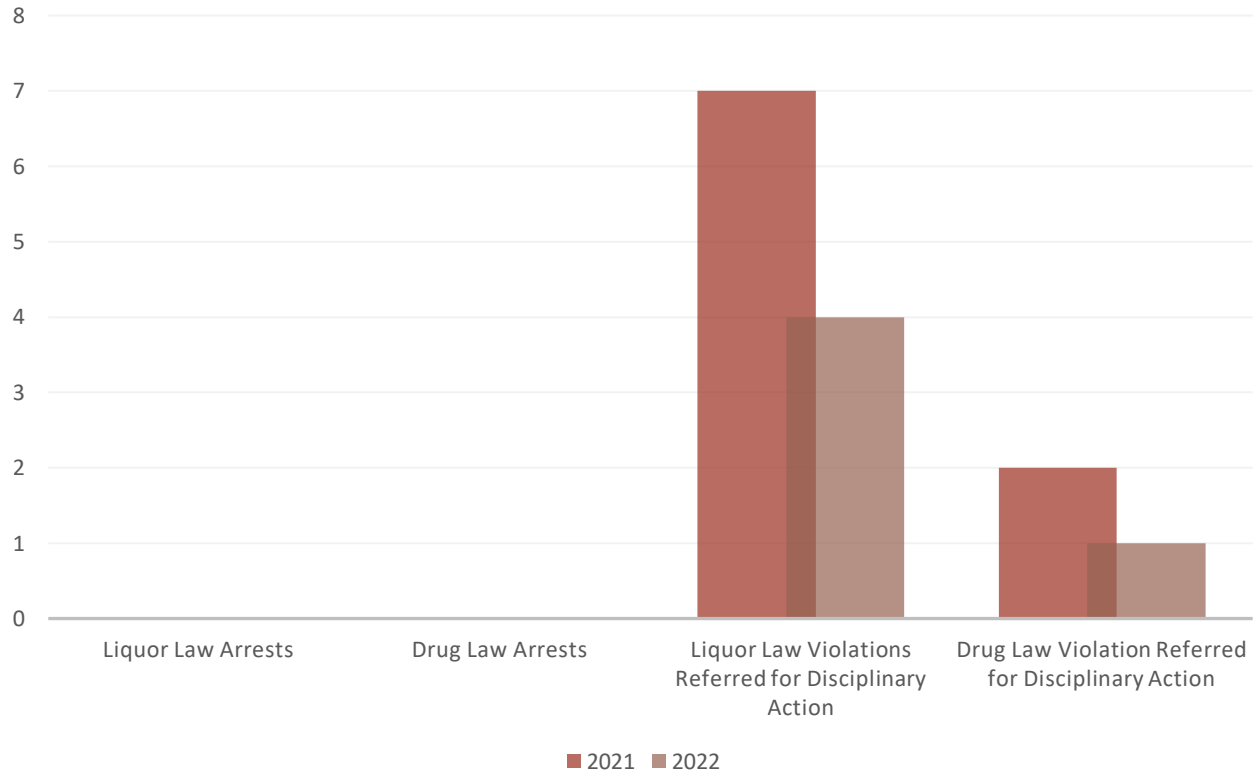
Medical and Health Services

Name	Phone	Address	Website
TAMUT Student Counseling Center	903-223-3186	University Center Room 420	https://tamut.edu/counseling/index.html
Family Medical Group	903-831-6848	See website	http://www.fmgofarkana.com/index.html
CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System	903-614-1000	2600 St. Michael Drive, Texarkana, TX 75503	https://www.christushealth.org/st-michael
Wadley Regional Medical Center	903-798-8000	1000 Pine St., Texarkana, TX 75501	https://www.wadleyhealth.org/

TAMUT On-Campus Liquor Law and Drug Law Arrests and Referrals for
2021 & 2022

Offense	Year	On Campus	Residential Facility
Liquor Law Arrests	2021	0	0
	2022	0	0
Drug Law Arrests	2021	0	0
	2022	0	0
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	2021	7	7
	2022	4	4
Drug Law Violation Referred for Disciplinary Action	2021	2	2
	2022	1	1

Texas A&M University - Texarkana Liquor Law and Drug Violations Comparison 2021-2022



Consistency of Sanctions

All Drug and Alcohol Policy violations that are referred for disciplinary action are adjudicated through the Student Life program. Sanctions are passed down following a predetermined guideline for each type of violation. Deviation from the guideline would only occur when mitigating factors are present. It is the policy of UPD to site all students present when an incident occurs. If a subset of the group takes full responsibility for the incident, the innocent students may receive reduced or no sanctions. Extreme circumstances may validate harsher sanctions. We were unable to effectively assess the university's efforts to enforce sanctions in accordance with the guidelines in 2019 and 2020 due to limited information provided relating to these violations.

Distribution of Notifications

Annual Security Report

Each year, an e-mail notification is sent to all enrolled students that provide the link to this report. Faculty and staff also receive an e-mail notification. The report can be found at <https://tamut.edu/About/Administration/University-Police/Campus-Safety-Reports.html>. Copies of this report can be obtained at the University Police Department at the Central Plant Building, 7101 University Ave., Texarkana, Texas, 75503. Prospective employees are given this information in job application packets. Prospective students are informed of the report and its availability during the admissions application process.

Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Annual Disclosure

All employees and students enrolled in at least one academic credit hour of courses receive the DFSCA Annual Disclosure via their student email accounts. This is inclusive of dual credit and online students. Email notifications are sent following the twelfth class day of the fall semester. A link to the DFSCA is also on the campus security web page at <https://tamut.edu/administration/human-resources/required-notices/index.html>

Evaluation of DAAPP

In reviewing the occurrence of drug and alcohol-related violations at TAMUT, the overall sparse number and decline in AOD incidents from calendar year 2021 to calendar year 2022 indicates that the programming offered by TAMUT is effective in managing student drug and alcohol abuse.

Strengths of the DAAPP at TAMUT include:

- Consistent sanctioning when enforcing drug and alcohol policies
- Focused attention on higher-risk student populations including on-campus residents, student-athletes, and Greek life members
- Services available in the Counseling Center
- Increased health and safety inspections in on-campus student residential housing

Weaknesses of the DAAPP at TAMUT include:

- Lack of funding for AOD programming

Recommendations

To better develop the DAAPP and be able to effectively evaluate its impact, the university should:

- Continue to identify and review drug and alcohol prevention programs and services to identify opportunities and/or resources needed.