

Mohawk Valley Community College

Drug Free Schools and Campus Regulations

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention

Biennial Review 2024

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Part I: Program and Description Goals

Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) is committed to an environment that supports academic success and the overall health of our students. We believe that the use of alcohol or other drugs is counterproductive to the goals of each student as they work toward the completion of their education as well as other individual measures of success that our students hold as individuals. Furthermore, we recognize the significance of the impact that alcohol and other drugs has on college culture and the contribution to an increased risk for sexual violence.

The Healthy Lifestyles Workgroup, Judicial Affairs and Community Standards, Counseling and Residence Life work together to provide the traditional educational components of the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) program and manage the administration of policy. The Healthy Lifestyles Workgroup has been developed with membership from the many stakeholders in student success at Mohawk Valley Community College including Residence Life, Student Engagement, Faculty, Counseling, our College Community Connections Office, as well as some of the Student Support Advisors. This group has a focus on the educational aspects of AOD prevention and is intended to address our college community from a holistic perspective of student health and wellness. This holistic approach provides an educational foundation for our students to make better choices. We provide more focused experiences to provide an understanding of the real-life risks associated with their choices. Coupled with social and educational activities offered through Residence Life and Student Activities, we believe that offering more engaging experiences gives our students more desirable options to risky behavior. The alcohol and other drug education and prevention initiatives are a large part of the focus of this group as it relates to providing healthy alternatives through the promotion of healthy and positive lifestyle choices.

As a part of our commitment to student success we are vigilant in our efforts to foster and maintain an environment that is conducive to academic achievement. We have student Code of Conduct policies that have provisions for progressive discipline (when appropriate). We believe in offering students second chances, so as discipline progresses, we will put measures into place that will help our students learn from their mistakes. For students that violate policy pertaining to alcohol and other drugs, in almost all cases, there is an AOD educational sanction as part of the adjudication outcome. We also understand that it is paramount to the success of all students that we apply our policies consistently in order to maintain an environment that will support every student's effort to complete their education.

Goals of the AOD Program:

1. Develop a comprehensive educational program that addresses the needs of all students
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of current college policies, procedures and AOD programs
3. Develop, implement, and assess the outcome measurements for programs, services, and events

Assessment goals and outcomes:

It is our hope to retain each student that chooses to attend MVCC through the completion of their program of choice. As part of this effort, the judicial administrator refers a student who violates AOD policies for education to The Judicial Educator. The Judicial Educator consists of 23 modules that educate students who are involved in disciplinary problems on our campus. Randomly generated automatic testing is built into each module. When a student successfully completes the module by passing a test, the student completes an e-mail notification form, which is then automatically forwarded to the campus judicial administrator.

Part II: Description of the AOD Elements

Alcohol Free Options

- Mohawk Valley Community College is an alcohol-free campus, (with the exception of non-student events with the approval of the College President). We have professional staff dedicated to student activities that facilitate a flexible array of student organizations that allow each year's offering to be reflective of the real interests of our current students. Each student organization has an advisor from our staff and faculty, often with similar interests that will engage each group to help maximize each experience.
- MVCC offers state of the art athletic and fitness facilities with an organized intramural program to offer students the opportunity to engage in individual and competitive physical activity and enhance the social environment that our students experience.
- MVCC's Office of Student Engagement oversees the following:

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Student Programming & Events

There were approximately 40 established active clubs/organizations for 22-23 and 23-24. The clubs and organizations, as well as the Student Engagement Office, provided AOD alternatives through programming, events & activities.

Sponsored the following events for 2022-23

- Fall Club Day
- Spring Club Day
- Welcome Back BBQ
- Constitution Day events
- “A Conversation about the 4th Amendment
- Constitution Bingo
- Veterans Day Flag Raising Ceremony
- AIDS Quilt display for World AIDS Day.
- Professional Clothing Drive
- “Navigating the Ups and Downs of a Mental Health Trigger” and “Handling Stress at the End of the Semester”.
- Black History Month Networking Event
- Women’s History Month Luncheon
- Chocolate Hawk
- Co-sponsored with BLSU the movie Wakanda Forever.
- Magicians
- Illusionists
- Game Nights
- Paint Nights
- Open Mic Nights
- Drag Bingo
- Kahoot Trivia
- Pizza Parties
- Grocery Bingo
- Dances
- Comedians
- Singers
- Educational speakers/events
- Cultural speakers/events
- School Supply Give Away
- Bun-Eating Race
- Super Bowl Watch Party
- Pal-entine's Day
- Letter for the elder
- Origami
- DIY Brown Sugar Scrub
- Among Us Live
- Valentines For Everyone
- SMASH Your Stress
- Black History Month Movie Event
- Snow Fest
- Snowtubing Trip

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- Drag 101
- Healthy Practices in the Halls
- National Disabilities Awareness Pool Tournament
- Word Wolf
- Movie Night
- SECOND REQUEST WITH PROPER FUNDING - The Importance of Sleep
- March Movie Night
- Wonder Works Tickets
- Destiny USA
- Paper Easter Egg Hunt
- Staff Bonding Blanket Making
- Lego Night
- Spring Mocktail
- Study Together
- Final Week Study
- Snack & Study
- sow your seeds and let your plant grow
- Cupcakes and Plants
- Plants and Cupcakes

Sponsored the following events for 2023-24

- Fall Club Day
- Spring Club Day
- Welcome Back BBQ
- Constitution Day events
- Fall Finale Dinner
- Solar Eclipse Viewing Party
- Block Party
- Veterans Day Flag Raising Ceremony
- AIDS Quilt display for World AIDS Day.
- Professional Clothing Drive.
- Magicians
- Illusionists
- Hypnotist
- Paint Nights
- Open Mic Nights
- Physic Fair
- Drag Show
- Chocolate University
- Pizza Parties
- Grocery Bingo
- Dances
- Comedians
- Singers
- Movie Nights
- Casino Nights
- Golf Workshops

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- Pound Class
- Cayo Event
- Zoo Mobile
- Adopt a Pet for mental Health
- Welcome to MVCC Movie Night
- RC Kitchen Supplies
- RC Hispanic Heritage Food and Movie Night
- Supplies for RA Office
- Weekend Programing Local Apple treat taste testing
- Apple Picking
- RC Apple Picking Trip
- RC Apple Picking Trip
- Residence Council Breast Cancer Awareness
- Charlie Brown Pie Night
- Weekend Programming - Karaoke Night
- Friendsgiving Bingo
- Pumpkin Painting
- Zombie Manhunt
- Breast Cancer Awareness Photoshoot with RA Haley
- RA of the Week Gift Cards
- Game Night
- Diversity-Horror Movie Night
- Halloween Kahoot
- Trick or treating
- Halloween Reverse Trick and Treating
- Halloween Party for RA Staff
- Weekend Programming 11.3
- Turkey hunt
- Worlds Kindness Day
- Thanksgiving Food giveaway
- Watch Party for NBA In Season Tournament
- Weekend Programming 2.2.24
- Taste of Utica
- Make Your Own Candy Gram
- Superbowl Party
- Weekend Programming 2/23
- Grocery Bingo
- Supplies for Game Room and Office
- Residence Council Shirts
- Spring break food give away
- Spring Break Breakfast
- Pizza Party
- St Patricks Day Festival
- Volleyball Tournament
- Chips and dip
- Women Empowerment Karaoke
- Hall Easter

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- Basketball tournament
- Kickball Tournament
- Snacking and Scheduling
- Roommate Mixer
- Business and Hospitality Scheduling
- Picnic with Howl's Moving Castle
- Last Resident Council Meeting
- Have You Applied for FASFA Yet?

Clubs/Organizations

- Clubs took 19 trips in 22-23 with 431 students participating. These trips ranged from just for fun to regional and national conferences, tournaments, training workshops and trips that showed students about potential careers/transfer opportunities after they graduate.
- Our clubs took 20 trips in 23-24 with 302 students participating. These trips ranged from just for fun to regional and national conferences, tournaments, training workshops and trips that showed students about potential careers/transfer opportunities after they graduate.

Applied Learning

- There were 20 applied learning trips in 22-23 with 257 students participating.
- There were 17 applied learning trips and events in 23-24 with approximately 272 students participating.

Normative Environment

The Healthy Lifestyles Workgroup is focused on providing healthy alternatives, educational opportunities, and efforts in raising awareness to minimize the allure of high-risk activities and supports the educational tenets of prevention. We recognize the significance of the use of alcohol and other drugs on college campuses and the subsequent impact on incidents of sexual assault. We place value on educational programs that highlight this connection.

The Healthy Lifestyles Workgroup provided different events throughout the 2022-24 academic years under the following categories, some of which were repeated on each campus:

- Title IX and VAWA 5 total programs
- Alcohol and Other Drugs 5 programs
- General Wellness 7 Programs
- Employees are provided with information on policies related to alcohol and illicit drug use through distribution of policies and procedures through the Human Resources webpages. New employees are advised about the policies and procedures at the time of hire and sign an acknowledgement form. Any revisions to a policy and/or procedures will be electronically sent to all employees.
- MVCC offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to all employees that provides access to counseling for addiction and other needs.
- MVCC has a Wellness Council whose purpose is to develop, coordinate, and publicize activities and resources designed to provide college employees with a comprehensive array of opportunities that support all aspects of well-being.

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- Specific residence life programming is focused on topics of alcohol and drug use and is often coordinated with the support of campus counseling services.
- Alcohol education is common for students who violate policy to help students make healthy choices and support their efforts to complete their education.
- Counseling services are available to all students (at no additional charge). Counseling Services is staffed by full-time licensed practitioners. Services are available on both the Utica and the Rome campuses, as well as via online appointments. Our Counselors often will work with faculty and staff to facilitate referrals that feel least intrusive so that students will be most likely to utilize support services. We also conduct referrals for more intensive services and therapy, including individuals with an addiction.
- BERT (Behavior Evaluation Response Team) is a standing committee that meets weekly to review reports from faculty and staff on student behaviors that fall outside of traditional classroom management but may not generate an incident report (to Public Safety). The primary focus of this group is to provide appropriate intervention whenever possible, so that each student receives the support necessary to remain in good standing at the college. To this end, BERT is comprised of representatives from Counseling Services, Health, and Wellness, Judicial and Community Standards, Holistic Student Support, Residence Life, Learning and Academic Affairs, Public Safety and Athletics.

Alcohol Availability

- Alcohol is prohibited on both campuses of Mohawk Valley Community College without express permission of the College President.

Marketing and Promotion of Alcohol

- Alcohol advertising on campus is prohibited;
- Campus involvement of national recognition weeks such as Alcohol Awareness Week, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Suicide Awareness Week, National Depression Screening Days, and their corresponding events are made public by posting on Hawklife app, social media platforms, flyers, tabling, and Student and Resident Life Specialist and Program Board. Policy regarding Alcohol and Other Drugs and the status of MVCC as a dry campus is widely distributed through distribution of the Student Handbook and Residence Hall Orientation;
 - Counseling Services has created wallet cards with information on alcohol abuse, marijuana, sexual assault, Title IX, Fentanyl, LGBTQ+, Emotional and Mental Health. Each of these gives an overview and contact information for on and off campus resources for treatment and support services. These are available in a variety of offices across campus including but not limited to: The Vice President for Student Affairs, Residence Life and Student Activities, the C3 Office, the Learning Commons and the Health and Wellness Center.

Policy Development and Enforcement

- Comprehensive policy for both residence hall and non-residence hall students exists as a part of the student handbook that is distributed to all students via email at the start of the fall and spring academic terms;
- Policies are reviewed on an ongoing basis as a part of the review of the student handbook to refine policies for clarity and consistency;
- Disciplinary standards and processes align with MVCC student status, therefore off-campus incidents may be pursued when brought to our attention and negatively impact the college community.
- Human Resources has established an MVCC Board of Trustees Policy regarding Alcohol and Controlled Substances in the Workplace.

Part III: Summary of AOD Strengths and Weaknesses

Favorable Compliances:

The Healthy Lifestyles Workgroup has been active with collaborative efforts culminating in a total of 14 programs over the past two years covering a wide variety of topics including AOD, Title IX/VAWA and general wellness. The success of these efforts is rooted in the cross-campus collaboration and the multiple perspectives presented to develop each of these programs are the product of the many types of interactions between students and professional staff and faculty at the college. Health Services, Counseling Services, Advisement, Student Engagement, Residence Life and the MVCC Department of Public Safety, along with faculty are just a few of the many partners that have shaped the programmatic themes associated with Healthy Lifestyles.

All programs are a result of campus collaboration and the budgetary support for these events has also been shared by all the partners involved. This creates multiple stakeholders for each event and has contributed to the institutional engagement with these efforts. The college is committed to the importance of efforts of Healthy Lifestyles as evidenced by the consistent provision of budget money to support this programming despite the budgetary challenges. The support for the Healthy Lifestyles initiative begins with the executive leadership of the college.

The College has a tip mechanism (Hawkeye Tip) that allows any student to confidentially share information with the college about an event or incident. This program effectively allows students to make the college aware of another student that may be in distress or in need of additional services.

[Compliance Concerns \(2022\):](#)

While we made changes to our AOD judicial model, offered campus wide programming, and created the easy access to information for students, we did not get as far reaching in our messaging as we would have liked. College student needs have changed, their online presence has changed, and the campus has also changed the programming requirements that have previously assisted with attracting students to our programs. The switch to a more remote learning environment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the need to examine our educational outreach and messaging. The use of social media should be more strongly considered, as well as a more recognized campaign across campus for a more holistic prevention effort. It is also recommended that the College continue expanding the NARCAN training for all of the MVCC campuses to ensure a well-trained and knowledgeable staff.

[Follow up to Compliance Concerns \(2022\):](#)

In 2022, the college increased efforts on reaching a wider audience for programming and campus wide messaging with the return of students on campus social media platforms such as the HAWKLIFE app, and college social media pages continue to be utilized. Campus tv screens are widely used to market events as well as hanging flyers in areas where there is a large student presence. All programs and events have transitioned back to in person. Active and passive programming is held in areas that are highly accessible to students including tabling in the ACC Snack Bar specifically during lunch hours, AB Lobby during high traffic class times, and utilizing both the academic and residential hall quads. Narcan training was offered to all Residential Directors, Residential Assistants, Learning Commons staff, and Peer Mentors.

Compliance Concerns (2024):

We continue to have a student body that prefers online, and/or shorter messaging delivery, and the ongoing efforts to reach and educate students continue to be a challenge. The Healthy Lifestyles committee will need to consider what will reach our students and develop messaging and programs that fit the new demand. A consideration of social media, exploring different areas on campus with a student presence, offering more giveaways and interactive activities to increase participation. Collaboration with marketing for the outreach should be discussed, as well as research into best practices other schools may be using for successful outreach.

Part IV: Recommendations to Address Policy Revisions and/or Biennial Compliance Concerns (2024)

We are returning to a pre-pandemic level of campus density and therefore have a need for increased in-person programming. Since laws have changed, we will need to refocus our AOD programming to be more specific to marijuana use by college students. We are examining what are the most effective ways to reach students and what incentives will encourage participation in programs in person, as well as continue to employ passive campaigning to reach those who chose not to come to campus. We will need to expand NARCAN training to a wider audience for staff and increase our messaging about opioid use and addiction, as there will be more students on campus to see the messaging.

Procedures for Distributing Annual AOD Notification to Students and Employees

We have committed to providing an annual notice that will include the components listed below and will be distributed each January and August.

- Annual Security Report (including Right to Know and Drug Free Schools)
- HEOA Student Consumer Information
- Title IX and Discrimination Policy & Procedure
- Middle States Outcomes
- Student Handbook link sent to all students by the Vice President for Student Affairs

We will provide this biannual notification to all students and employees of the college through email, and MyMV student portal. Each of these will allow for the widest distribution and recognition by students and employees.

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Policies Distributed to Students and Employees

Annual Notice

Alcohol and Other-Drug Abuse

Policy Statement

Mohawk Valley Community College is committed to an environment which supports the academic success and health of our students. Alcohol abuse or the use of illicit drugs may be harmful to the user and may be harmful to the educational environment, an environment that must be conducive to learning.

Reason for Policy

Mohawk Valley Community College is committed to providing an environment where students, employees and guests have the right to study and work in a healthy and safe environment. The Student Code of Conduct specifically prohibits the use of alcohol or illicit drugs. These regulations are found in the Code of Conduct section of the Student Handbook and on the College website.

Applicability of the Policy

All members of the College community, including visitors to the College, should be familiar with and abide by this policy.

The procedures for students are outlined below. The procedures for employees, contractors and vendors are outlined on the [Office of Human Resources](#) website.

This policy shall also apply to conduct of students, employees, contractors, and vendors when representing the College at College sponsored events at off-campus locations including but not limited to campus activities, school sponsored trips, school sponsored study abroad programs and school sponsored social events.

Related Documents

- Mohawk Valley Community College Student Handbook
- Mohawk Valley Community College [Office of Human Resources](#)
- New York State Penal Law, Article 220, 221
- MVCC website

Procedures

The College prohibits the use, possession, distribution, or sale of controlled substances at the College. Further, the College prohibits the use, possession, distribution, or sale of alcohol except when authorized by the President.

The MVCC Student Code of Conduct broadens this policy in its residence halls to include but not be limited to being in a room where alcohol or drugs are present, possessing paraphernalia, selling, or purchasing alcoholic beverages to minors and possession of empty alcohol containers.

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There are recommended sanctions for violations of the Alcohol and Drug Policies. If a student is found responsible for violating the alcohol and drug policy through the standard judicial process, the sanctions include the following:

(CR = College Regulation)

- CR 12: Use or possession of controlled or illegal substances at the College. (This includes the use or possession of cannabis);
 - Possible Sanctions: Warning, Judicial Educator Module, Alcohol & Drug Probation, Comprehensive Probation, College Suspension/Dismissal
- CR 13: Distribution or sale of controlled or illegal substances at the College. (This includes the sale of cannabis)
 - Possible Sanctions: Warning, Judicial Educator Module, Alcohol & Drug Probation, Comprehensive Probation, College Suspension/Dismissal. Possible Legal Action
- CR 14: Possession of paraphernalia commonly used with illegal substances. (This includes possession of paraphernalia commonly used with the use of cannabis)
 - Possible Sanctions: Warning, Judicial Educator Module, Alcohol & Drug Probation, Comprehensive Probation
- CR 15: Use or possession of alcoholic beverages except when authorized by appropriate College administrators
 - Possible Sanctions: Warning, Judicial Educator Module, Alcohol & Drug Probation, Comprehensive Probation, College Suspension/Dismissal
- CR 16: Distribution of alcoholic beverages except when authorized by appropriate College administrators;
 - Possible Sanctions: Warning, Judicial Educator Module, Alcohol & Drug Probation, Comprehensive Probation, College Suspension/Dismissal. Possible Legal Action

Residence Hall Regulations

Policy#	Violation	Recommended Sanction - Actual sanction will depend on severity of incident and progressive discipline model
RH2A	Storage, consumption, or possession of any alcoholic beverage in room or on Dormitory Corporation property	1st Offense – Alcohol & Drug Probation and Mandatory Alcohol Education 2nd Offense – Comprehensive Probation-Residence Hall Dismissal Note: Incidents involving mass quantity may result in greater sanctions.
RH2B	Selling/distributing/purchasing alcoholic beverages to minors	Residence Hall Dismissal; Legal Action
RH2C	In a location where alcohol is knowingly present	1st Offense - Probation and Mandatory Alcohol Education 2nd Offense – Comprehensive Probation-Residence Hall Dismissal
RH2D	Possession of empty alcohol containers	Warning; Probation
RH2E	Possible alcohol/drug overdose, requiring staff assistance (*Non-good Samaritan or Amnesty)	Warning; Mandatory Substance Abuse Education; Residence Hall Dismissal

Policy#	Violation	Recommended Sanction - Actual sanction will depend on severity of incident and progressive discipline model
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CR 12	Use or possession of controlled or illegal substances at the College. (This includes the use or possession of cannabis, in any form)	1st Offense – Cannabis: Alcohol & Drug Probation and Mandatory Education 2nd Offense – Cannabis: Comprehensive Probation - Residence Hall Dismissal 1 st Offense – Drugs other than cannabis: Comprehensive Probation - Residence Hall Dismissal
CR 13	Distribution or sale of controlled or illegal substances at the College. (This includes the sale of cannabis, in any form)	Residence Hall Dismissal – College Expulsion. Possible legal action
CR 14	Possession of paraphernalia commonly used with illegal substances. (This includes possession of paraphernalia commonly used with the use of cannabis. Examples of cannabis paraphernalia include, but are not limited to rolling papers, bowls, bongs, or other paraphernalia)	Warning – Residence Hall Dismissal
RH2F	In a location where cannabis is knowingly present	1st Offense – Alcohol & Drug Probation and Mandatory Education 2nd Offense – Comprehensive Probation - Residence Hall Dismissal
RH2G	Quality of Life Violation: an odor of cannabis in the Residence Halls that is severe enough that it reasonably impacts the quality of life for other residents	1st Offense – Warning, Educational Sanction 2nd Offense – Warning - Alcohol & Drug Probation

Compliance with Sanctions and Timelines

All sanctions will be communicated in writing with clearly established timelines for completion. If the student has not completed the sanction within the timeline and has not received approval by a Conduct Officer for an extension the student will be subject to additional sanctions.

Federal, State and Local laws prohibit the unlawful use, manufacture, possession, control, sale and dispensation of any illegal narcotic or dangerous drug. These laws carry penalties for violations, which range from fines to prison. The seriousness of the offense and penalty imposed upon conviction depend upon the individual drug and amount held or sold. It is noteworthy that a gift of drugs is treated as a sale under the law.

New York State Alcohol Beverage Control law sets twenty-one (21) as the minimum age to purchase or possess any alcoholic beverage. Parts of that law include:

- Persons under 21 found possessing alcohol may be given a maximum fine of \$50.
- Persons convicted for fraudulently using a driver’s license to buy or attempt to buy alcohol may have their driver’s licenses suspended for up to 90 days.
- Persons convicted of buying alcohol through fraudulent means face a possible \$100 fine and/or may be required to work up to 30 hours of community service work. Persons convicted of selling, giving, or serving alcohol to persons less than 21 years of age face significant fines.

New York colleges and universities remain bound by their federal requirements under the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug Free Workplace Act. Under these laws, the use, possession, and distribution of cannabis for any reason must be prohibited and subject to student code of conduct or employee disciplinary actions.

Analytics (2022-2023)

Date Range: August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023

Total Cases: 536

CR 12: Use or possession of controlled or illegal substances at the College

Not Pursued	8
Responsible	15
Not Responsible	0
Total # of Cases	23

CR 13: Distribution or sale of controlled or illegal substances at the College

Not Pursued	1
Responsible	0
Not Responsible	0
Total # of Cases	1

CR 14: Possession of paraphernalia commonly used with illegal substances

Not Pursued	0
Responsible	6
Not Responsible	0
Total # of Cases	6

CR 15: Use or possession of alcoholic beverages

Not Pursued	0
Responsible	0
Not Responsible	0
Total # of Cases	0

RH2A- Alcohol violation

Not Pursued	15
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Responsible	17
Not Responsible	7
Total # of Cases	39

RH 2C- In a room where alcohol is present

Not Pursued	0
Responsible	9
Not Responsible	0
Total # of Cases	9

RH 2D- Empty Alcohol container(s)

Not Pursued	0
Responsible	3
Not Responsible	0
Total # of Cases	3

RH 2E- Possible Drug/Alcohol overdose

Not Pursued	0
Responsible	0
Not Responsible	1
Total # of Cases	1

RH 2F- Storage, use, or possession of any marijuana

Not Pursued	7
Responsible	8
Not Responsible	1
Total # of Cases	16

RH 2G- Packaging materials or equipment that indicates sale or distribution

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Not Pursued	1
Responsible	0
Not Responsible	1
Total # of Cases	2

RH 2H- In a location where marijuana was used

Not Pursued	7
Responsible	1
Not Responsible	2
Total # of Cases	10

RH 2I- Drug paraphernalia

Not Pursued	4
Responsible	0
Not Responsible	0
Total # of Cases	4

RH 2J- Quality of Life Violation

Not Pursued	14
Responsible	9
Not Responsible	6
Total # of Cases	29

Analytics (2023-2024)

Date Range: August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024

Total Cases = 610

CR 12: Use or possession of controlled or illegal substances at the College

Not Pursued	28
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Responsible	15
Not Responsible	1
Total # of Cases	14

CR 13: Distribution or sale of controlled or illegal substances at the College

Not Pursued	2
Responsible	1
Not Responsible	1
Total # of Cases	4

CR 14: Possession of paraphernalia commonly used with illegal substances

Not Pursued	12
Responsible	4
Not Responsible	2
Total # of Cases	18

CR 15: Use or possession of alcoholic beverages

Not Pursued	0
Responsible	1
Not Responsible	1
Total # of Cases	2

RH2A- Alcohol violation

Not Pursued	6
Responsible	5
Not Responsible	1
Total # of Cases	12

RH 2C- In a room where alcohol is present

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Not Pursued	3
Responsible	1
Not Responsible	1
Total # of Cases	5

RH 2D- Empty Alcohol container(s)

Not Pursued	10
Responsible	8
Not Responsible	3
Total # of Cases	21

RH 2E- Possible Drug/Alcohol overdose

Not Pursued	0
Responsible	1
Not Responsible	0
Total # of Cases	1

RH 2F- Storage, use, or possession of any marijuana

Not Pursued	0
Responsible	1
Not Responsible	0
Total # of Cases	1

RH 2G- Quality of Life Violation

Not Pursued	10
Responsible	2
Not Responsible	2
Total # of Cases	14

Health Risks

Risks associated with substance abuse cannot be easily summarized, but the information that follows should give the reader an appreciation of the severity of these risks.

Substance abuse is usually acute or chronic. An acute problem results from a single episode of drug/alcohol use such as sudden heart failure (cocaine use), an automobile accident with personal injuries or misbehaviors with legal ramifications. While under the influence of alcohol or drugs, rational decision-making may indeed be altered, which can result in many unwanted outcomes such as unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted disease, violence, and rape. Substance abuse by anyone can cause unwanted and unnecessary acute problems.

Chronic problems result from long-term habits of abuse of alcohol or drugs. It is typical for individuals with chronic problems to hide or deny the existence of a problem. In most cases, an individual's ability to perform any task is diminished, which negatively affects one's relationships, ability to work and overall performance in life. Substance abuse creates changes in one's life that are very gradual and many times the negative affects go unnoticed by the abuser and those around him or her. Addiction is a disease that is not easily detected in the early stages.

Symptoms of Addiction Include:

- Drinking or getting high for relief
- Increased tolerance
- Feeling guilt or remorse (as a result of behavior while under the influence)
- Negative attitude or blaming others for problems
- Anxiety or depression
- Complaints from family/friends about drinking or drug use
- Decline in work performance
- Inability to remember what happened when drinking (blackouts)

Drug and Alcohol Programs

Mohawk Valley Community College places an emphasis on the promotion of healthy alternatives to high-risk activities associated with use of alcohol and drugs. The Healthy Lifestyles Committee is dedicated to offering experiences throughout the academic year that educate staff, faculty and students on the risks associated the use of alcohol and/or drugs. Through coordination of efforts with other areas of the college, such as the Cultural Series, Student Engagement, Counseling Services, Health Services, as well as Student Congress, the Healthy Lifestyles Committee will offer healthier alternatives for staff, faculty, and students.

Counseling Services is located in the Health and Wellness Center in the Alumni College Center and is staffed by two licensed mental health professionals. All student conversations are protected by the confidentiality of the counseling relationship to give each student the opportunity to work through any individual challenges in a safe environment. When appropriate, the Counseling Services staff will work with a student to facilitate a referral to an agency in the community that is most appropriate to the needs of the student. The Counseling Services staff also conducts workshops several times each semester that focus on the dangers and health risks associated with use of alcohol and other drugs.

The following information is specific to the training provided to the residence hall staff to prepare them for their role when handling issues involving alcohol and other drugs.

RA Training

Semester	Date	Presenter	Title	Description	Target Audience
Fall 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8/22/23 – RA Training: Mental Health 8/22/23 – RA Training: Alcohol/Drugs 	Licensed Mental Health Practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RA Training – Mental Health Alcohol and other Drugs and Role of the RA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAs were trained on mental health topics relative to residence and how to handle distress and crisis situations. RAs were trained in how to look for signs of alcohol & drug abuse amongst their peers. They were also informed about the resources available on and off campus. 	Resident Assistants
Spring 2023	<p>1/12/23 – Counseling and the Resident Assistant Role</p> <p>1/12/23 Alcohol and other drugs and the role of the RA.</p>	Licensed Mental Health Practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RA Training – Mental Health Alcohol and other Drugs and Role of the RA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAs were trained on mental health topics relative to residence and how to handle distress and crisis situations. RAs were trained on how to look for signs of alcohol & drug abuse amongst their peers. They were also informed about the resources available on and off campus 	Resident Assistants

Staff and Faculty have access to an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that is administered by Human Resources. Through the Employee Assistance Program, faculty and staff have access to wide range of counseling services that includes alcohol and other drugs. Higher Ed EAP is the agency that provides EAP services for the college. Information EAP can be accessed by visiting the Human Resources webpage or by visiting Human Resources office.

Alcohol and Controlled Substances in the Workplace

Policy:

Use and abuse of alcohol and drugs has a detrimental effect on the productivity, attendance, and health of our college community. As a public employer, we must protect the safety and welfare of all members of our college community.

It is the policy of the College that employees will be subject to criminal, civil and disciplinary penalties if they distribute, sell, attempt to sell, possess, or purchase controlled substances while at the workplace or while performing in a work-related capacity. Such illegal acts, even if engaged in off duty, may result in disciplinary action. Where permitted, an employee may possess and use a controlled substance which is properly prescribed for him or her by a physician.

Procedure:

College employees are prohibited from on-the-job use of, or impairment from, alcohol or controlled substances. In cases where the College has a reasonable suspicion that an employee is not able to perform his or her duties as a result of the use of alcohol or a controlled substance, the College shall follow the process as outlined in the appropriate collective bargaining agreement, or in accordance with the provisions of Section 72 of the Civil Service Law for classified staff.

"Controlled substances" refers to the hundreds of chemicals listed in the Controlled Substances Act by the federal government. All so-called "street drugs" (heroin, cocaine, crack, marijuana, speed, acid) are controlled substances.

Where testing for alcohol or a controlled substance occurs, appropriate medical procedures and tests should be utilized to assure accurate and proper results. Confidentiality of the testing process and results is an important aspect of this procedure for any affected employee.

A "reasonable suspicion" must be based upon specific, reliable observation that the College can articulate concerning the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odor of the employee. The following observations may indicate drug or alcohol use: unsteady gait, odor of alcohol on the breath, thick or slurring speech, aggressive or abusive language or behavior, and disorientation or lethargy.

The employee's time and attendance patterns, such as absences around weekends, pass days or payday, excessive use of sick leave, excessive lateness and unauthorized absences, on-the-job accidents, difficulty in recalling instructions or conversation, poor relationships with co-workers and supervisors,

and other variations in productivity may also be considered when making a determination as to whether a "reasonable suspicion" is present.

College employees not covered under Section 72 of civil service law may also be required to undergo such a medical examination. Upon determination that an employee is using, is under the influence of, or is not able to perform his or her duties due to alcohol or a controlled substance, the College will determine the appropriate action to be taken. When considering the appropriate action to be taken, the College may determine that the affected employee should be disciplined as a result of alcohol or drug use. Disciplinary action may be taken pursuant to the procedures contained in the appropriate collective bargaining agreement or civil service law.

In accordance with The Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, all College employees who have been convicted of a drug related activity must report that conviction within five (5) days. Please report any convictions to Human Resources.

Violations of this policy are subject to College issued sanctions, as well as federal, state, and local criminal sanctions. For a list of federal and state sanctions, please see the links below:

NYS Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Law: Article 5 – Special Provisions Relating to Liquor and NYS Vehicle and Traffic (VAT) Law: Article 31 – Alcohol & Drug-related Offenses & Procedures

NYS Penal Law: Article 220 - Controlled Substances Offenses; Article 221 - Offenses Involving Marijuana; and Article 178 - Criminal Diversion of Prescription Medications and Prescriptions (Appendix A attachment)

The College may also refer an employee to seek assistance through the College's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which is available to all full-time and part-time employees.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Higher Ed EAP
1-800-252-4555

www.theEAP.com/Higher-Education-EAP

For information regarding the health risks of using alcohol and drugs please visit the National Institutes of Health links below:

[National Institute of Health Alcohol Abuse](#)

[National Institute of Health Drug Abuse](#)

For more information...

New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

1-800-8-HOPENY